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Israel begins freeing former expellees

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Sunday began freeing from prison some of the 197 Palestinians it expelled to South Lebanon a year ago and who had returned on Wednesday to Israeli jails, a military source said. The process of freeing them began in the (West Bank) prisons of Dahar-ia and Faraa and from the Ketziot detention centre (south Israel), and the first of them have begun coming out," he said. Israeli radio reported that 132 of the former exiles were to join their loved ones from Sunday evening and that about 10 others would be let go on Monday.

U.S. senator denies discussing Israelis

BEIRUT (AP) — A U.S. congressman Sunday denied that he and four colleagues had made contact in Syria with Palestinians and Iranian-backed militants to discuss the fate of six missing Israelis. Sen. Dennis Deconcini of Arizona, a Democrat, made the denial in a telephone call to the Associated Press office in Beirut from Jerusalem, which the group is currently visiting. "We did not have contacts with Hizbollah or Palestinian radicals or any (radical) group in Syria or any place else," Mr. Deconcini said he acknowledged that the five congressmen did discuss the issue of the missing Israelis with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in Damascus and "thanked him for the cooperation of Syria on

Curbs on Egyptians going to Syria

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said on Sunday it had imposed restrictions on its citizens travelling to Syria with immediate effect. "Egyptians must now apply for a special permit from the Interior Ministry for the protection of citizens and to prevent anything bad they could face," the Interior Ministry said in a brief statement. Large numbers of Egyptian workers have recently returned from Syria, complaining they were maltreated in Syrian prisons. About 30 Egyptian workers, accused of being illegal aliens, have been returning weekly since Syria began to expel them in October, Cairo airport officials said. The workers told reporters they had spent up to 50 days in Syrian prisons. A spokesman at the Syrian embassy told Reuters his country had nothing to do with the new travel restrictions.

Beijing post possible for Aspin

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Sunday the "door is open" to Les Aspin to become U.S. ambassador to China after his resignation as defence secretary becomes effective next month. "I think that door is open," White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty said when asked whether Mr. Aspin would become envoy to Beijing, during an interview on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley." "The door (is open) to a number of opportunities in this administration, perhaps in-cluding that one." Mr. McLar-ty added. He said it would be a decision for President Bill Clinton and Mr. Aspin, and indicated any move would come after a break Mr. Aspin has said he wants to take from working.

Turkish restaurant

bombed in Germany DAMASCUS, Germany (R) Unidentified attackers threw fire bombs into a Turkish restaurant in the German town of Darmstadt on Sunday, police said. No one was hurt in the attack, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday morning and caused considerable damage. A police state-ment said unidentified assailants broke a hole in the restaurant's glass door and threw a bottle filled with flammable liquid into the entry hall. Police found another burning bottle on the pavement outside. In a separate incident, attackers tried to set fire to a kebab stand. Again, police found bottles filled with flammable liquid but no dainage was caused. .

unblock self-rule

and aides of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat began a fresh drive here to break the deadlock over launching Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza, officials said Sunday.

They met informally on Saturday and were meeting again Sunday in Oslo, where they first drew up their autonomy accord in secret four months ago, Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland said without disclosing the

Formal talks were scheduled

here for Monday.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said that in Oslo it would put forward compromise proposals for joint control of border crossing from the autonomous areas into Egypt and Jordan. It had previously demanded full respon-

PLO Executive Committee member Ishaq Ali said the Palestinians might also com-promise on the size of the Jericho district in the occupied West Bank.

But Israel insisted it must have nothing less than full control over borders.

"If external security is in the hands of Israel then I believe that the way will be paved for compromises in other domains," Israeli Immigrant Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban said in occupied Jerusalem

He described border control

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP

(R) — Two Palestinian fac-

tions in the occupied Gaza

violence between their suppor-

ters and find out who started

clashes that injured 13 Palesti-

Liberation Organisation's

(PLO) Fatch faction and the

Popular Front for the Libera-

tion of Palestine (PFLP) said

they met under the supervision

of Haider Abdul Shafi, former

head of the Palestinian nego-

tiating team to Middle East

The stone-throwing clashes

between Fatch, which supports the PLO's peace deal with Israel, and the PFLP which

opposes it, was the most se-

rious open conflict between

Palestinian factions since the

PLO and Israel signed the

able incidents, the two factions called for a meeting attended by Haidar Abdul Shafi to put

an end to the deteriorating

conditions and track down

those who caused (the inci-

In the light of the regrett-

agreement in September.

peace talks.

A statement by the Palestine

nians over the weekend.

Mr. Egeland said the Oslo talks, which he was attending, were "aimd at preventing the failure of the next summit meeting" between Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin. Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat failed in Cairo last Sunday to iron out details for starting an Israeli army pullout by the Dec. 13 deadline, set by the Oslo accord which was eventually signed in Washington in

They agreed to return to Cairo in around 10 days, but Mr. Rabin told Israeli radio Sunday that he was checking developments in Oslo and else-

where to determine if a second meeting would be "fruitful." Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, a mediator in the original Oslo talks, talked with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin last week and agreed to arrange for new talks in the Norwegian capital to try to break the deadlock, Mr. Egeland said.

Norwegian envoys also made arrangements in Tunis, Paris and Tokyo, diplomats

The Israelis and the PLO team, led by close Arafat aide Yasser Abed Rabbo, arrived Saturday evening for meetings that continued Sunday, said Norwegian foreign ministry spokesman Ingvard Havnen. He refused to disclose where

signed by both factions in Gaza

and faxed to an international

study plans to overcome the

present tension and establish

relations which will not allow

the repetition of what has hap-

It was not clear if the meet-

ing had finished. The state-

ment did not mention leaders

from the two sides by name.

injured when dozens of sup-

porters from the two groups

Seven people were injured in a clash on Saturday which

evewitnesses said involved ab-

out 400 activists from the two

sides in a battle for control of a

the deep conviction that the

causes are spontaneous and

individual in all the incidents

and in the final analysis do not

help anyone except the ene-

mies of our people," said the

three-day truce brokered on

Sunday's clash broke a

"Both sides start out with

piece of land in Gaza City.

clashed in Rafah.

On Sunday, six people were

"The meeting retired to

news agency.

pened," it added.

they were meeting, or whether there had been progress.

Palestinian factions

meet to end clashes

Peres and his team would re-

turn home Sunday.

Mr. Ishak, the PLO official
in Tunis, said the Palestinian team was proposing joint con-trol of the crossing points to Gaza and Jericho. He said the plan would put the points under Palestinian control but allow Israel to use electronic surveillance to monitor traffic.

"Let them use their computers and advanced technological equipment to monitor who is coming and who is going ... but we will never allow them to stop us or our visitors from crossing," Mr. Ishak said. Israeli Communications

Minister Amnon Rubinstein said the Israelis hope "the PLO will change its attitude.' "We were prepared to allow the Palestinians to participate in the border crossing. But their demands for total responsibility on external security are totally unacceptable," Mr.

Rubinstein said. The two sides appeared less intransigent on the size of Jericho. On Saturday, a PLO official said Palestinians would accept about 200 square kilometres, down from its original demand of 350 square kilometres. Israel has proposed an enclave of roughly 90 square kilometres, up from 25 square kilometres.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said he expected the Oslo talks to yield some results by Monday

Israeli

planes

Israel, PLO try to PLO requests Jordan to delay reopening of banks in West Bank

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN --- The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) appealed to Jordan on Sunday to delay reopening Jordanian commercial banks in the West Bank until Palestinians begin implementing the Sept. 13 self-rule accord with Israel.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim told the Jordan Times he "expressed the PLO's wish to the Kingdom to refrain from undertaking any practical steps in implementing the Jordan-Israeli memo of understanding until the PLO and Israel agree on implementation of the selfrule accord.'

Other PLO sources said Mr. Abdul Rahim contacted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday and requested that Jordan delay the reopening of bank branches in the West Bank in order to contain any possible misunderstandings and avoid further deterioration of Jordan-PLO relations.

"Once the PLO agrees with Israel on implementation of the self-rule accord; the PLO will be ready to sign the Jordan-PLO draft economic pact,

because without it, Jordanian branches might face problems in operating in the West Bank," a Tunis-based PLO official said.

However, Jordanian officials said preparations for reopening bank branches were only awaiting the go-ahead from the Cabinet because the banking agreement was not linked to the signing of the Jordan-PLO

The officials said statements made by Central Bank of Jor-dan (CBJ) Governor Moham-mad Said Nabulsi on Saturday in which he said he asked Jordanian banks to prepare for reopening of branches once the Cabinet approved the CBJ arrangements still stood.

"It is up to the government now to decide when commercial banks can open branches in the West Bank in line with the memo of understanding we reached with Israel last month," a Jordanian

Jordan and Israel signed a memo of understanding on Dec. 1 within the framework of Middle East peace talks in which Israel would allow an early reopening of Jordamian banks in the occupied West Bank. Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ would oversee the operations and licensing of these branches. He said eight banks with 31 branches operated in the West Bank until

1967. Only one Jordanian bank, the Cairo-Amman Bank, operated in the West Bank since 1987, but due to severe limitations on its operations, it acted as a cash office, officials said.

Officials said the banking agreement would be submitted to the Cabinet for ratification on Tues-day. If ratified, the CBJ would have the green light to issue per-mits for commercial banks to reopen branches in the West Bank. Bankers said Dr. Nabulsi told directors of Jordanian bankers

Thursday to prepare for reopening their branches because Jordan was ready to implement the banking agreement in the next few days. They said be asked them to submit applications to the CBJ to acquire the necessary permits and licenses. Banks need written approvals from the Bank of Israel to reopen their branches in the West Bank. They said in line with the banking agree-ment, Israel would allow the reopening of one branch for each bank during the first six months, whereas new branches and banks

would be allowed at a later stage.

Despite the absence of a PLO-Jordan economic pact, some bankers and economists said they doubted the actual implementation of the banking accord before an understanding with the PLO was reached. Some expected practical obstacles in reopening branches in the West Bank, and probably financial losses if Palestinians chose to stop using the Jordanian

The initialling of the banking agreement between Jordan and Israel angered many PLO officials and some Palestinians inside the occupied territories, who fell the ement was reached behind agreement was reached bennoutheir backs, ignoring Palestinian authority in the West Bank.

PLO-Jordan relations have been

cool since the announcement of the PLO-Israel accord last September. Relations deteriorated last month during PLO Chairman Yasser Ara-fat's visit to Jordan when he evaded signing the economic agreement despite statements to the contrary before his arrival to

the Kingdom.

Jordan, eager to have the economic pact signed, felt let down by the PLO chairman. A Jordanian official said the Kingdom issued a warning to the PLO that if the accounts pact was not signed beeconomic pact was not signed be-fore Dec. 20 each side would go its own separate way. He said Jordan could not wait forever until the PLO chairman decided to ratify the economic agreement, which he chose to delay without proper explanations to the Jordanian gov-

The draft agreement stipulates that the two sides agree on establishing a permanent joint monetary and banking committee to agree on monetary and banking policies during the Palestinian interim period. This committee would be (Continued on page 10)

Cabinet, House to discuss peace process Dec. 29 'Ballet alien to Arabs' By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — The government

and the Lower House of Parliament will hold a "general discussion" on Dec. 29 of the Kingdom's policy vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace process and the progress it has achieved.

The discussion, which will take place in a special session of the House, was requested by 18 lawmakers after many deputies described as common knowledge a policy briefing given by Minister of State for san last week.

It was not yet clear whether the discussion would be in camera; but Speaker Taher Al Masri said Sunday he would ask the government that the meeting does not take place behind closed doors. The government can request that the discussion be held in a secret

During its regular session on Sunday, the House entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee with drafting a statement in support of Palestinian expellees who returned to the occupied territories from South Lebanon Dec. 15.
Acting Prime Minister Ma'n

Abu Nowar, who supported the House decision to issue the statement against what he called Israeli crimes against Islamist Deputy Hamzeh Mansour that Jordan Television did not give enough coverage of the expellees' ordeal. In a question to the minister of information submitted during the term of the 11th Parliament. Mr. Mansour asked why

(Continued on page 5)

AMMAN - Ballet dancing is a foreign art and the word ballet itself is not an Arabic word. Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber told lawmakers Sunday.

He said the art violates Arab and Muslim values, and the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) of the Ministry of Culture should reconsider its decision to establish a ballet dancing group.

Former Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra had said that the RCC founded the children's ballet dancing group to encourage pantomime and sophisticated arts.

In response to a question submitted by Mr. Jaher during the term of the 11th Parliament in May 1993. Dr.

Samra said the group was

acting in a way that did not violate "our values, traditions, and faith. But Mr. Jaber insisted that

ballet dancing "is part of the Western tutelage (of the Arab World). After reading the Lower

House of Parliament a lengthy encyclopedae definition of hallet dancing. Mr. Jaber concluded that the art was a stranger to Arab and Muslim culture.

But it is natural these days that things are not called by their names, said Mr. Jaher.

"Alcohol is being called spirits, licentiousness is being called art and the abandonment of rights is being called peace," he said, asking deputies "if arts have any relation to our national heritage.

Mubarak sends Baz on Algeria to hold national urgent Libya mission conference in January

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior adviser to President Hosni Mubarak left unexpectedly for Libya Sunday following the disappearance of a Libyan diplomat in Cairo and fears he may have been kidnapped by the Libyan govern-

The trip by Osama Al Baz came after both the United Nations and the United States expressed concern about the case of Mansur Kikhia, a former Libyan foreign minister

on the purpose of his trip.

Also Sunday, Arab League

Secretary-General Esmat

Abdul Meguid, who is a veter-

an Egyptian diplomat, met

with a former Libyan ambassa-

dor to the league, Abdul Salam

Al Treiki, the state run Middle

East News Agency reported.

man's office confirmed the who disappeared from a Cairo hotel Dec. 10. Libyan dissidents in Cairo have said they believed Mr. Kikhia, head of an opposition alliance, was abducted to Libya. His wife, Baha Omary

our planes returned safely to Kikhia, said in Paris she had base. The post that was hit was been called by one of Mr. used as a training base and a Kikhia's brothers in Libya who said her husband was well and would contact his family soon. Dr. Baz made no comment

could be seen rising from the

bollah forces.

slightly hurt when SLA and

Israeli artillery returned fire.

grenade at a militia patrol near Sojud, the SLA said, Both The Egyptian government kept an embarrassed silence for more than a week on Mr. Kikhia's disappearance.
Officials declined to com-

ment on the Baz trip, which was not officially announced. Egypt has acted as a mediator to try to resolve Libya's dispute with the West over the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing.

Libyan leader Muammas Qadhafi has stepped up mass rallies to show popular de-fiance of U.N. sanctions and the Libyan people's support for their leader, state television

reported on Sunday.
Since the United Nations tightened its sanctions against Libya on Dec. 1, Colonel Qadhafi has held more rallies in a bid to "show the world how the people are united around their leader," Libyan Television said.

In a series of speeches Col. Qadhafi has hammered home the message: "For two years we held out an olive branch, we accepted mediation, we told them we wanted peace, but the arrogant ones responded by stepping up the sanctions. Fresh evidence, page 10.

ALGIERS (Agencies) - The mandate of Algeria's ruling High State Council (HCE) has been extended by a month, officials said Sunday, making way for a national conference to try to resolve the country's political crisis.

The High Security Council (HCS), the body which set up the HCE last year, said in a statement that the HCE's mandate would be extended until the end of January, and the national conference will take place 25-26. The conference will thrash

out a platform with opposition groups to cover a three-year transition period ahead of presidential and legislative elections, the statement said. The extension of the HCE

mandate came the day after a request to that effect by the Commission for National Dialogue (CDN), which was formed to seek a solution to the country's political crisis. The conference is intended to draft a plan for a transitional

government that would guide Algeria towards presidential and parliamentary elections within two or three years. Efforts to hold the confer-

ence have bogged down, mainly because of disputes over the participation of Muslim fundamentalists. The government's current stance is that individual fundamentalists could participate, but without any formal role for the main fundamentalist party, the out-lawed Islamic Salvation Front

The front has been banned since April 1992, three months after cancellation of parhamentary elections it was expected to sweep. The crackdownprompted retaliation by militants, and more than 2.000 people have been killed in the political violence.

In the latest unrest, police Sunday reported that Eight militants were killed by security forces Friday and Saturday, while four civilians were killed by suspected extremists

Don't miss the Bani Hamida



(Continued on page 10) Rabbi urges troops to disobey orders

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A leading Rabbi urged Israeli soldiers Sunday to disobey any command to remove Jewish settlers from the occupied territories, saying God outranked the government.

The call by former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren prompted a discussion at the weekly cabinet meeting and one minister demanded he be put on trial for sedition.

Rabbi Goren told Israel Radio: "(They) must refuse the order." He said Jews had a God-given obligation to settle the "biblical land of Israel' including the West Bank.

"This would be an order to violate the commandment of the Torah," Rabbi Goren told Israel Radio. He said the government had no authority anyway since it relied on the support of Israeli Arabs for par-

liamentary majority. The radio said Rabbi Goren's views were distributed in leaflets at synagogues in the occupied territories on

Saturday. A former chief military chaplain, Rabbi Goren, 76, holds the reserve rank of major-general and is widely respected by non-religious and orthodox Jews alike. There is a law, that over-

rides all others, and that is the law of settling Israel," Rabbi Goren told breakfast radio listeners. He gave his call the weight of a "religious ruling." Rabbi Goren is the most prominent figure to call for steps that could undermine the

beration Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement. "The very call to refuse an order in the Israeli defence forces is a first rate serious Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabbi told Israel Radio. Rabin Goren served under Mr. Rabin when he was chief-of-

Sept. 13 Israel Palestine Li-

staff during the 1967 war. Justice Minister David Libai said he was reviewing Rabbi Goren's remarks to see if they constituted sedition. An Israeli lawyer lodged a complaint with the police against Goren on his own initiative, Israel Radio re-

attack Hizbollah SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) – Israeli warplanes launched

two raids on resistance targets in South Lebanon on Sunday after artillery duels rocked the area, security sources said. Two planes fired at least 10 missiles at targets near the

villages of Milita and Louwaizeh in Iqlim Al Toufah. a ridge used by resistance fighters to launch attacks on Israel's self-styled "security zone" inside Lebanon, they said. The sources said fighters

fired anti-aircraft machineguns and missiles but none of the raiding jets was hit. Smoke billowed over the area as ambulances rushed to the scene of the attack. No further details were available. The raid on Mlita and

Louwaizeh came less than two hours after an air attack on nearby Jabal Safi mountain in alim Al Toufah. The first raid caused no casualties, the sources said. In Israel, the army spokes-

Jabal Safi attack. "Israel air force warplanes this afternoon attacked a post of the Hizbol-lah group in Jabal Safi." an army communique said.
"The pilots reported accurate hits on the target and all

base for launching attacks," it Thick columns of smoke

A Hizbollah source in Sidon told AFP that surface-to-air missiles were fired at the planes. He did not mention any casualties among the Hiz-

Earlier a South Lebanon Army (SLA) spokesman said Hizbollah mounted two separate attacks against the SLA, Israel's proxy militia in occupied South Lebanon. A Lehanese civilian was

police said. The guerrillas shelled an SLA position in Rihan and later fired a rocket propelled communities are in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.



(عملة ا صد الأصل

bookeeper Osman Fares said:

"If the Western countries think

they're going to make us bend

to their will by banning the sale

of our oil, we will cover our oil

wells and close them, as the

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has pledged to set fire to the oil wells if sanctions

target Libya's main revenue

more about the sanctions.

Foreign workers complained

On the square of Bourguiba

Mosque in the heart of Tripoli, Habo Bahaaeddine waited for

the driver to finish loading

bags and boxes onto the mini-

bus taking him to his native

He could once fly to an airport in northern Sudan and

then travel by road to his vil-lage in less than a day, but now

the trip took 10 days over

Al Jubaili Ibrahim, a store salesman from the central

Sudanese region of Kordofan,

said the effects of the embargo

are "beginning to be felt."

Many of his countrymen

who work in the trade and

construction industry have re-

turned home, he said. In Hotels, where many of the employees are Moroccan, a

waiter said he has not received

his wages for nine months and

that he stayed on in Libya only

in the hope he could recover

A Libyan official replied:

But many hotel workers said

they were motivated by the

money they could make through black market currency

"This is absolutely false. No reasonable person would wait

his back pay.

rugged terrain, he said.

village in northern Sudan.

guide says.

Libyans feel little effect from embargo

By Lamia Radi Agence France Presse

TRIPOLI - The U.N. sanctions on Libya have had little impact on peoples' daily lives.
"We have everything in
Libya," Salah Abdul Rahman, a merchant in the Al Rashid market, said as he ushered a visitor into his shop stacked with imported items from Taiwanese radios to American shampoos.

The relatively few Libyans who travel were the only ones to complain openly of the sanctions, saying the ban on inter-national flights forced them to take long road trips via Tunisia

and Egypt.
Diplomats agreed that sanctions first imposed in April last year to punish Tripoli over its alleged involvement in the Lockerbie bombing have had little impact other than to increase prices and force the government to cut subsidies a little.

They said the people here were fatalistic and would likely take matters in stride.
"We don't need anyone and

we're happy with what we produce locally," Mr. Abdul Rahman said, referring to the possibility of even stiffer sanctions.

A freeze on assets abroad and a ban on oil-related equipment took effect Dec. 1 after Tripoli continued its refusal to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scot-

land, killing 270 people.

They added to diplomatic sanctions and a ban on air traffic as well as weapons purchases that took effect on April 15, 1992.

Mr. Abdul Rahman's

Cleric behind attacks prosecutor

CAIRO (AFP) — The chief prosecutor of Egypt's high state security court on Satur-day accused a blind, exiled Muslim cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, of instigating a wave of fundamentalist vio-

lence in Egypt.

As the trial resumed here of Sheikh Abdul Rahman, spiritual leader of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah group, prosecutor Abdul Samih Sharafeddin said the cleric was "the brains behind all the recent terrorist operations and acts of violence, which are still going

The cleric, 55, has been held in the United States since July 2 for alleged involvement in the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York on

Forty-seven others, including nine still in hiding, were also on trial in Cairo for organising a violent demonstration in April 1989, in Fayoum, 100 kilometres south of Cairo, during which a policeman was wounded.

All the accused were aquitted at a first trial in 1990, but a new trial opened on April 6

this year. The chief prosecutor accused Sheikh Abdul Rahman and his followers of plotting to topple Egypt's secular government and attacking tourists to undermine the country's eco-

The cleric was also accused of issuing a fatwa authorising the theft of Coptic Christians'

property.

Muslim militants have been waging a violent campaign against the authorities since March 1992.

Gulf Arabs seek stronger Yemen to force amid border feuds

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The leaders of six Gulf Arab states meet in Riyadh this week for their annual summit. at which fears of Iran and Iraq. they will discuss bolstering their joint military force. united by fears about their giant

neighbours Iran and Iraq. However, the heads of state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) also have their own border disputes, which have snowballed into brief armed confrontations at least twice since they created their political, economic and defence bloc

in May 1981. The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman. Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab

The three-day meeting in Riyadh. opening Monday. would cover a host of political. military, economic and environmental issues, according to official Gulf media.

GCC foreign ministers finalised the agenda of the summit on Saturday.

"The GCC leaders will discuss recommendations from their defence ministers to beef up their military capabilities by increasing the number of troops in the Peninsula Shield force, so it will be able to defend the sovereignty of member states," the official Qatari News Agency said late

The Peninsula Shield, drawn from the six members, was set up around eight years ago but it has remained a token force, not exceeding 10,000 soldiers. It has been based at Hafr Al Batin in northern Saudi Arabia and frequently conducts joint

The force, set up as a symbol of military coordination among member states, made no move when Iraqi troops stormed into Kuwait in August 1990.

At talks in Abu Dhabi last month, GCC defence ministers agreed to bolster the Peninsula Shield as an alternative to a proposal by Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman to create a 100.000-strong joint Gulf Western diplomats said they believed the GCC states would press ahead with boosting that force, given their persistent

"We all know the presence of Western naval forces in the Gulf is giving a feeling of security to the GCC countries. But such a presence is not expected to last for ever and member states have to rely on themselves to guarantee their safety." one diplomat said.

"I believe bolstering their capability will remain their top priority because of Iraq's repeated threats and their suspicions about Iran's intentions. especially after its island dispute with the UAE and attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction."

Before the invasion of Kuwait, GCC states had around 160,000 troops and more than 300 aircraft. But a recruitment drive and multibillion-dollar arms deals are expected to more than double their power, according to ex-

The GCC leaders are expected to repeat appeals to fraq to accept the U.N.-brokered border agreement with Kuwait, and to Iran to relinquish three strategic Gulf is-lands claimed by the UAE.

But they are expected to shun their own border problems to prevent the possible collapse of their talks.

The border disputes within the GCC are not on the agenda of the summit and no member has requested the discussion of such issues as they remain within the bilateral framework," Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Shahin told the official UAE news agency WAM on Friday.

"The best solution to the border problems in the GCC should be found through spirit of brotherhood, even if the negotiations about them continue for 1.000 years, provided there are no threats. pressure or hostile intentions.

probe halting of premier's |motorcade

Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas has set up a Defence Ministry team to investigate the stopping of his motorcade by armed military police outside the capital Sanaa.

The official media reported that Mr. Attas, from southern Yemen, had ordered the investigation on Saturday after the police stopped him on Friday night as he tried to enter the capital.

A national reconciliation committee, convened on Saturday by political leaders and parties to discuss Yemen's six-month-old political crisis. condemned as "irresponsible" the police action.

It praised Mr. Attas for defusing the confrontation and called on the government to take "strict measures" to avoid any repetition of such inci-

The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the south before union in 1990, said Mr. Attas was allowed to drive into Sanaa after he used his car phone to call several political leaders in the capital but that three military jeeps followed his motorcade into Sanaa's city

It was not immediately clear why he was stopped or who ordered the military police to let him proceed.

The YSP said the military police were under the command of Colonel Mohammad Yahya Al Hawari, who is from the same northern tribe and village as President Ali Abdul-

The YSP and the General People's Congress (GPC), which ruled the north, united the country in May 1990 and held multi-party elections in April this year but differences later emerged paralysing the government.

The political crisis has sparked reports of political killings, unlawful armed roadblocks and troops movements had led to fears that Yemen might split again.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court extends detention of six Jewish militants

TEL AVIV (AP) — A magistrate's court judge on Saturday extended the detention of four Israelis and two Americans suspected of conspiring to carry out attacks against Palestinians, Israel Radio said. The arrests of the six earlier this week foiled the establishment of a new "Jewish underground," the radio said. A group by that name had carried out bombing and shooting attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank in the early 1980s. The six, including an American businessman, are suspected of hoarding guns and conducting weapons training, the radio said. Five suspects were ordered held for two more days. A sixth detainee, a Jewish seminary student from Jerusalem who recently immigrated from the United States, was ordered held for five days.

Oman grants Iranian envoy top honour

MUSCAT (R) — Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman Saturday, granted the Iranian ambassador to Muscat the country's top medal to be given to a diplomat. The Oman News Agency said the sultan granted Ambassador Mohammad Arab a first degree Al No'aman Medal for "his leading role in deepening and boosting ties of cooperation between the two countries in different fields." Oman and Iran jointly control the strategic Strait of Hormuz the only entrance of the Gulf. They have Strait of Hormuz, the only entrance of the Gulf. They have traditionally had close political and economic fies despite Iran's often tense relationship with some of Oman's Gulf Arab and

Wives of missing Iraqis may remarry

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi whose husbands went missing during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war will be able to remarry, under a legal amendment approved by the Iraqi parliament, officials said Saturday. The amendment, yet to be endorsed by President Saddam Hussein, applies to Iraqi women whose husbands have been missing for at least four years. Saadun Al Takriti, chairman of the parliament's religious and social affairs committee, said the measure was aimed at "ending personal tragedies experienced not only by wives but by families," Iraqi newspapers reported. During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war thousands of Iraqis disappeared, but no precise official figures HA7

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Rasmussen lays wreath at Israeli memorial

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen began his official visit to Israel Sunday by laying a wreath at the holocaust memorial to the victims of the Nazi's final solution. The premier was later due to see the walled Old City of Jerusalem ahead of talks Monday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Rasmussen was also scheduled to meet right-wing Likud Party opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu followed by President Ezer Weizman on Monday. He visits the northern town of Metulia on the border with Lebanon and the holy sites on the shore of the Sea of Galilee on Tuesday. Mr. Rasmussen goes on Wednesday to Jericho, which is to be granted autonomy under the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement, and sees leading Palestinians from the occupied territories in Jerusalem the same day before

4 Indians killed, 5 hurt in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — Four Indian nationals were killed and five were injured in Bahrain when 10-storey-high scaffolding on which they were working collapsed, the Indian embassy said on Sunday. Local newspapers said a Bangladeshi worker was also injured in the incident at a construction site on Saturday. An embassy spokesman told Renters that two of the injured workers were in a "serious condition" while the other three were in a stable condition. The next of kin have been notified. According to the embassy, more than 110,000 Indians

Former Afghan premier living on hand-outs

LONDON (AFP) - A former prime minister of Sovietoccupied Afghanistan, Ali Khestmand, is living on social security handouts as a refugee in Britain, the Independent on Sunday reported. "The former prime minister of Afghanistan, whose government Britain never recognised and of pounds trying to overthrow is living in north London on social security," the report said. The paper said Mr. Khestmand, 58, had first applied for asylum in France but had been turned down. He then decided to seek asylum and refugee status in Britain because he would have had "no chance to live safely in Afghanistan." Mr. Khestmand, who arrived in Britain a year ago, was quoted as saying the British authorities had been "very good to me." "As a refugee, I was given a lump sum of money and I now have a weekly allowance."

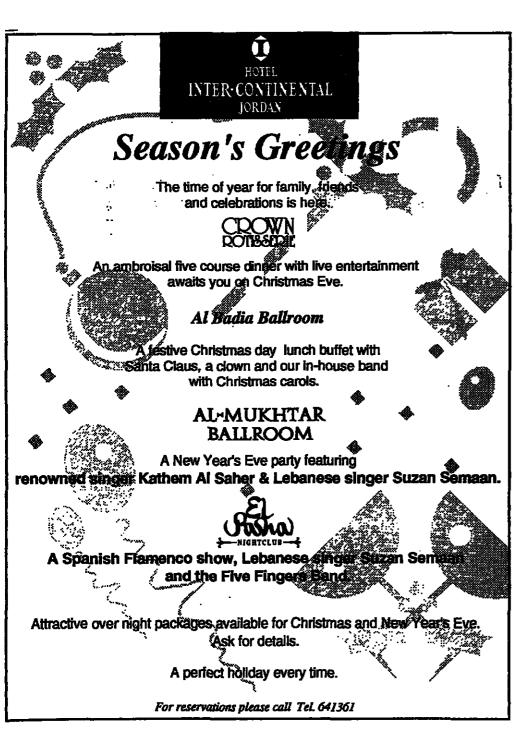
Iranian plant to start production in 1994

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian chemical plant being built with Chinese help will start production in 1994, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. IRNA put the cost of the processing plant, in Iran's west Azerbaijan province, at \$20 million in hard currency and 25 billion rials (\$14.16 million) and said it would produce 3,000 tonnes of melamine powder and 12,000 tonnes of amonium sulphate. The plant was expected to save Iran \$5 million a year, it added in a report late on Saturday. A Chinese expert who visited the plant Saturday called for increased cooperation between Iran and China and said he expected trade between the two states to reach a total of \$400 million a year.

Kurds block German motorways

.. New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

KASSEL, Germany (AFP) — More than 2,000 Kurds, demonstrated near here Saturday, blocking access to motorways and chanting slogans in support of an independent homeland and the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), witnesses said. The PKK and groups linked to it were banned in November by Interior Minister Manfred Kanther after a series of attacks across Germany on Turkish offices and diplomatic buildings. The demonstrators, from across Germany, blocked access to motorways from Kassel and the neighbouring city of Goettingen.



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Queen Noor to launch UNICEF publications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein will Wednesday (Dec. 22) launch the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) publications: The "1994 State of the World's Children Report" and the "Progress of Nations."

The launch by Queen Noor, which will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre at 11:00 a.m., will be followed by a press conference, during which Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and UNICEF representative in Jordan Victoria Rialp, will discuss the report with media representatives, according to a UNICEF

The State of the World's Children Report looks at the progress achieved in the last decade in the areas of child survival, health education and nutrition. However, the report warns of the consequences of failure to address the worst aspects of poverty, which, linked with rapid population growth and environmental deterioration, could undermine the recent progress and future prospects, the UNICEF spokesperson said.

The report calls for serious action at all levels to meet the basic

aceds of the poorest quarter of the world's population.

The "Progress of Nations," which has been issued for the first time documents the countries performance, in education, health, nutrition, family planning and status of women. The report lauds Jordan's achievements for children, noting in particular Jordan's. health and nutrition achievements, according to the

Arab fund,

financing

Aqaba

thermal

power

station

JEA discuss

AMMAN (Petra) — A team representing the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has opened talks at the Ministry of

Planning and the Jordan Elec-

tricity Authority (JEA) on Jor-

dan's request for a loan to

finance the second phase of the

Aqaba thermal power station.

ning department director, Mohammad Azzam, the pro-

ject entails installing two ther-

mal power generating units each

with a 130 megawatt capacity.

"Should the negotiations succeed a tender will be floated

in Jordan by the end of 1994 nd

the project will be operational

by the middle of 1997," said

He said that the project was

needed to boost electric power.

generation in the Aqaba re-

gion, which has been witnes-

sing increasing industrial and

economic activities in the past

two years and is anticipated to have additional activities in the

The AFESD team is nego-

tiating terms of the loan agree-

ment, for financing the project

which falls within the JEA's

1993-1997 development

He noted the Minis-

try of Planning was undertak-

ing the task of negotiating with

a number of countries and in-

ternational funds to secure the

additional funds for this vital

scheme, added Mr. Azzam.

coming years.

According to JEA's plan-

WHAT'S **GOING** ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned in-

EXHIBITIONS

- 🖈 Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Cente.
- * Exhibition of Iragi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition artist Hanan Al Dasougi at the Student Affairs Deanship at the University of Yarmouk in Irbid.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artists Ibrahim Al Abduli and Abdul Hussein Twaij at Alia Art Gallery.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Sabounji at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Span-
- ish Cultural Centre. ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khaled Hijazi, Mohammad Al Ameri, Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- * Art exhibition by artist Hani Al Hourani entitled ons from Wadi Al Walah" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ☆ Art exhibitical by artist Samia Zarou at the Open Studio "Al Marsam Al Maftuh," Jabel Amman, 2nd Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-17:00 all days except Fridays).
- **★** Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhreh Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Sho Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibi tion. (Tel. 643251/2).
- **☆** Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (be-tween the 5th and 6th Circles).

CHRISTMAS **BAZAARS**

- A Christmas bazaar at Ai Nekhbah Exhibition Hall, University Road (Tel. 837304, 684257).
- A Christmas bazaar at the Orthodox Club in
- A Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibition/Airport
- th Christmas bazaar by Jor-dan River Designs at Re-gency Palace Hotel (10:00 - 9:00 p.m.) (Tel. 656872).

FILM & DRAMAS

- Tilm in French entitled 'Merci La Vie' at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- & Short film in French entitled "Onde De Choc" at the French Cultural Centre at \$:00 p.m.
- ★ Romanian film entitled "Nemuritorii," with English subtites, at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00
- ☆ Drama in Arabic entitled. "Pages of Blood" at the Drama Theatre of the University of Yarmouk (12:00 moon and 3:00 p.m.).
- 🖙 Drama in Arabic entitled 'Girl At the Age of Marriage" at the Drama Theatre of the University of Yarmouk at 4:30 p.m.

NGOs recommend series | Road of measures to implement child rights convention

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN — Representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) Sunday stressed that the convention on the rights of the child did not contradict the Islamic League-(sharia) and called on the Muslim countries who have earlier showed reservations on certain articles in the charter to en-

dorse it. At the end of a two-day meeting on methods to implement the convention on the rights of the child, a group of human rights experts and NGOs' representatives. in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UN-ICEF), agreed to adopt the

following recommendations: On the information level, NGOs' plans of action should focus on public mobilisation and providing funding resources for services and development purposes.

On the communication level, NGOs should adopt the Arab plan of action on ways to implement the convention on the rights of the child to promote it and incorporate it into their, programmes.

NGOs were called upon tochart a plan order to raise awareness of the Arab plan on the convention of the rights of the child and universalise it.

Participants also issued an appeal to all governments and concerned authorities, including international organisations, to lift the embargo on Iraq and improve the living conditions of Iraqi children.

In a separate statement, participants also appealed for improved conditions for the Palestinian, Somali and Sudanese children.

Recommendations also stressed that the convention is in line with Sharia and that there was on justification for Arab and Muslim countries to reject it. (All Arab countries except four have ratified the convention).

The fourth recommendation tackled the most controversial issue during the two-day conference — coordination among NGOs in supporting and implementing the convention. It called on NGOs to form a committee for more coordination among themselves on the one hand and between NGO and governments on the other to enhance the status of children. The participants also called on UNICEF to participate as a main partner while the committee will preserve its independence.

The role of the committee will focus on raising public awareness of the convention as well as organising training courses on the rights of the child as well as following up on their implementation.

The participants also called on UNICEF to organise similar meetings annually, to form a committee to follow-up on the recommendations, to give particular attention to handicapped and to activate the Arab Council on Childhood and Development.

Seminars to highlight patterns of healthy life, environment

AMMAN (Petra) - A fourday seminar on patterns of healthy life will start in Amman Monday. The seminar, organised by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and no be attended by media representatives from the private and public sectors, aims at orienting journalists and information services personnel on sound and healthy practices to be adopted by individuals in their daily and social life.

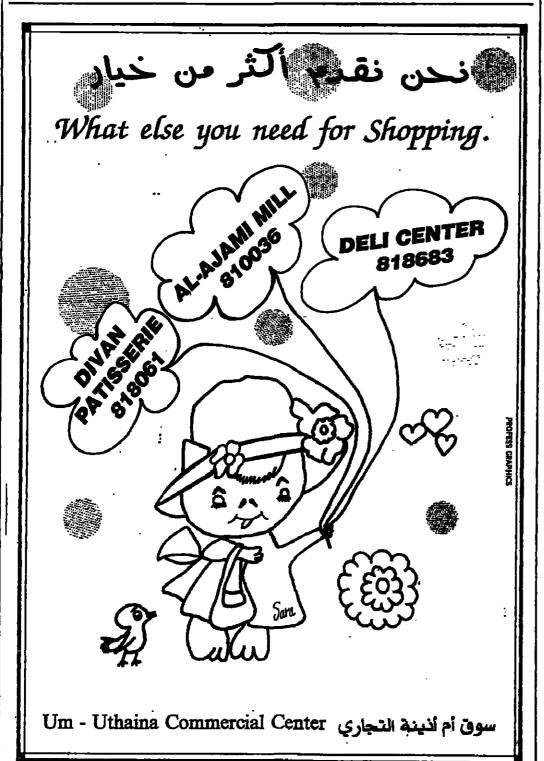
According to a health ministry statement, participants will focus on health issues directly linked to behavour, habits re lated to nutrition, the AIDS disease, smoking and incommunicable diseases in Jordan and other parts of the world. The statement added that discussions would deal with the role of media in spreading awareness and guiding members of the public in changing

health malpractices. Also on the agenda, are case studies of health matters which are normally covered by the

Also opening Monday in Amman is a regional seminar on assessing the adverse consequences on the environment rsulting from water projects.

Organised by the Department of the Environment, the seminar will be opened by Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Ahmad Agaileh. The discussions will cover a wider range of topics contained in working papers dealing with social, economic and cultural impacts of water projects, according to Department of Environment

Director Saleh Al Sharee. He said that the three-day seminar came at a time when the environment in Jordan was facing major challenges.



Princess Basma opens quality AQABA (J.T) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday inaugurated a health cenunder

scrutiny By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Safety on the roads of Jordan is the theme of a two-day seminar opening at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Monday. Organised by the Jordan Roads Society (JRS), the meeting will discuss road conditions which are among the frequent causes for road accidents, according to Mr. Nizar

rapportuer to the seminar, told the Jordan Times that a total of 338 people were killed and more than 10,000 others injured as a result of road accidents in the Kingdom in 1992. He said 13 working papers to be reviewed at the seminar

Mr. Abidi, who will act as

would examine faulty and improperly constructed roads in addition to other elements that contribute to a large number of accidents every year.
"Despite the fact that most

of the road accidents are a direct cause of a human error, we notice that motorists frequently violate traffic regula-tions and end up with accidents in certain areas.

"This clearly indicates that the roads are sometimes inadequate and full of pits that contribute to the recurrence of accidents," added Mr. Abidi.

Admitting that motorists were in need of refresher driving courses, Mr. Abidi said that road maintenance was no less important than training the motorists and spreading awareness among the public concerning safety on the roads.

Mr. Abidi said that the

working papers, to be reviewed by some 140 participants from 25 private and public institutions and voluntary societies, have been prepared by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environ-

ment, the Amman Municipal-ity, the Public Security Depart, ment, Muta University, Irbid-Municipality, the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents as well as the Jordan Roads Society.

health centre in Aqaba

tre here serving 25,000 residents of the Rimal and Ghuabieh districts of the port

Accompanied by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, the princess toured the different sections of the centre which offers mother and child care, dentistry and general clinic services as well as vaccinations, laboratory tests and pharmacy services.

Special units have been assigned for doctors giving local residents advice and guidance on family planning and

health education.

In a brief speech at the ceremony, Dr. Malhas reviewed health ministry efforts to provide primary health care services. vices and medical treatment. To date, the ministry has created 599 health centres in various regions, added Dr.

Health ministry sources said

that Aqaba has a military hospital which also provides medical services to civilians in addition to military personnel.

According to Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Shobaki, the health department director in Agaba district, two other health centres are contem-plated for the Shallaleh and the old district of Agaba to cater to the city's growing demand on health services.

The Princess toured the department of health and its aboratories and warehouses, visited the Aqaba Region Authority and later chaired a meeting of the local Aqaba Social Services Centre, which is operated by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), to review its programmes and its achievements during 1993 as well as plans for 1994.

The meeting endorsed a plan for developing the QAF centres operating in Qweireh and other districts in southern

Princess Alia visits Wadi Mousa region

AMMAN (Petra). — Her Royal Highess Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Sunday donated a bus to the Petra Voluntary Society for the care of the handicapped children in the Wadi Mousa and the Petra

region in southern Jordan. The Princess, who is honorary chair-person of the Jordanian Society for the Development and Training of Rural Women, presented the bus to the Wadi Mousa and Petra society member Niazi Shaaban who voiced his society's appreciation to the princess for her

humanitarian gesture.
"The bus will no doubt enable the society to overcome the problem of transporting the handicapped children from and to the rehabilitation centre on a daily basis," said Mr. Shaaban.

Mr. Shaaban said the society's centre currently treats 35 handicapped children aged be-tween eight and 15 years, most of whom suffer from physical disability and come to the cenre from distant areas.

The princess said in a statement to the Jordan news agency, Petra, that she was impressed by the level of cooperation among the residents of the Wadi Mousa and Petra region to offer voluntary services. She lauded the efforts of the local voluntary society for its care for the handicapped children, calling on concerned authorities and the public to extend all possible help to that society and other similar societies caring for handicapped children.

Princess Alia urged the Jordanian public to intensify their efforts towards promoting humanitarian initiatives and to bring about solidarity among the members of the Jordanian family.
According to Mr. Shaaban,

his society was making plans to raise the level of its services for the handicapped children.

Founded in 1991, the society has aimed at providing rehabilitation services to the handicapped children of Wadi Mousa and Petra in cooperation with the other voluntary societies, noted Mr. Shaaban. He said that the General

Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has provided two women teachers to give care to the children at the centre and financed the construction and furnishing of the centre.

Jordan to apply for entry to GATT

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan, liberalising its economy in line with IMP agreed economic reforms, is planning to apply for membership of the GATT, the world's trade regulator, officials and diplomats said Sunday.

Minister of state for foreign affairs Talal Al Hassan met several Western envoys over the past week to enlist their countries' support for Jordan's application to join the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "Through GATT, Jordan is seeking to expand its area of,

international economic cooperation in a manner that supports its national economic programmes," the Jordan News Agency. Petra, quoted Mr. Hassan as telling the en-

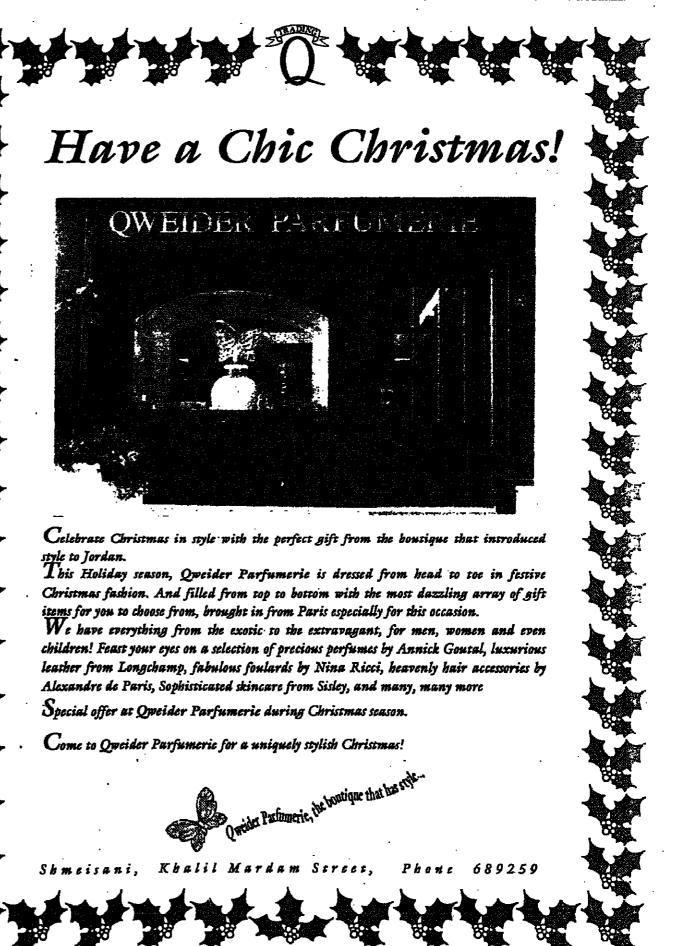
Jordanian newspapers have in general welcomed the GATT trade deal reached Thursday. But some fear it might have a negative impact on the Kingdom's fragile ecunomy and trade.

Amman hopes membership will help its integration in the new world trade order laun-ched by the GATT deal.

But it has to embark on quick reforms to reduce its highly-protected local industries, reform its tax system. improve the investment cli-mate and diversify its economic base.

Any application to join GATT requires lengthy procedures and negotiations during which applicant countries try to secure the most favourable terms that can best cater to their industrial and commercial interests as well as internal and external conditions.

Mr. Hassan discussed Jordan's application with the ambassador of the European Community (EC) countries, the head of the EC delegation as well as the amoassador of the United States, Canada, Japan, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland, Australia, South Korea, Sweden, Indonesia, Egypt, Brazil, Chile India and Pakistan.



LETTERS

Jordanian troops in

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Director General: **MOHAMMAD AMAD**

3.

Editor-in-Chief: **GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**

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Cart before the horse?

THE DECISION of four Arab countries to host multilateral peace talks with Israel is a trump card that should not have been used without some quid pro quo from the Rabin government. Yet those countries decided to host these negotiations at a time when the peace process was practically at a standstill on all the fronts. No wonder Jordan announced its willingness to take part in these parleys with considerable reservation after having itself rejected to host any of them at this early stage in the peace process. Amman views, and rightly so, holding multilateral peace negotiations with Israel in an Arab capital as "premature normalisation." It would have been an infinitely better negotiation tactic to delay showering Israel with one concession after the other until it demonstrates a more positive stance on all the tracks affecting the PLO, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

With the prospects for the much celebrated PLO-Israel peace accord achieving real results on the ground apparently diminishing, it is simply counterproductive to accelerate the normalisation process at this very time. What applies to the Palestinian track appears to apply also on the other Arab tracks, especially the Syrian and Lebanese. So why yield to Israeli pressures and accept to convene the arms talks in Qatar, the water resources in Oman, the economic development talks in Morocco and the refugees in Egypt? By not boycotting the projected multilateral talks but expressing strong reservations about their Arab venues. Jordan is taking a middle course that benefits its refusal to host any such talks until "concrete progress is made." What possible inducements are left to lure the Rabin government into meaningful bilateral peace talks if the Arab side continues to reward the Israeli side before solid progress is attained on all the fronts? That is why neither Morocco nor Tunis should entertain establishing any form of rela-tions with Israel, especially diplomatic ones, until there is discernable movement in the peace process. With Rabin's bottom line in his negotiations with all the Arab parties appearing way below their expectations the prospects for peace in the region do not look very bright. If, for example, Rabin continues to contend that the Jordan River is his country's security border come what may or keeps on insisting that full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights would jeopardise its security, then he appears to still cling to outmoded security criteria based on territory and military superiority rather than genuine peace that all future generations can live with. As long as this security doctrine preoccupies the various Israeli governments, then the Arab side must refrain from "normalising" relations with Israel in a precipitous and hazardous manner.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Sunday criticised the United States for its double standard policies in its relations with other nations. Washington was ready to go to war against North Korea for freezing its commitments to the international agreement on the proliferation of nuclear arms and stopped aid to Pakistan after accusing that country of preparing to manufacture the "Islamic" atomic bomb, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that one can not forget that it was Washington that stood behind the war against Iraq and behind the U.N. resolutions to destroy Iraq's nuclear capabilities. But at the same time, it is Washington which is now opposing a U.N. General Assembly resolution calling on Israel to join and to sign the non-proliferation treaty though the U.S. realises that Israel possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads, the writer pointed out.

MOHAMMAD KAWASH a columnist in Al Dusterr daily said he believed that the PLO-Israeli negotiations would be halted since the two sides have reached the point of no return. The Arabs, said the writer, are definitely in for yet another round of tedious and complicated negotiations where Israel would display its ill intentions and its intransigence with regard to the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the Oslo deal with the PLO. The only way to break the backbone of the Israelis in this matter, said the writer, is an escalation of the military action through the intifada where the Palestinians can exercise pressure on the Israelis to respond to the just Arab demands. Not only are the Israelis showing their determination to hold on to the occupied Arab lands, they are also trying desperately to link the West Bank and the Gaza Strip behavior Israel economy and take them away from the neighbouring Arab countries, especially Jordan, said the writer. He said that by refusing to recognise the rights of the PLO to control the crossing points along the border with Jordan and Egypt, Israel is placing major obstacles in the implementation of the Oslo deal. The writer suggested that the PLO conclude agreements to hind the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the Arab countrie and not to trust in the intentions of the Rabin government.

Security in the neighbourhoods is the new mission

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON - In a blink of history's eye, desperate neighbours in turmoil have replaced distant and mighty enemies as the source of the most urgent security problems con-fronting the world's major powers. But the gaze of the world's leaders remains fixed on the methods and missions of the recent past.

The threats that mobilise America and Russia today come from their own periphery, not from each other, as in the cold war. While Bill Clinton wrestles with crisis in Haiti, Boris Yeltsin struggles to contain the wars of Central Asia and the Cau-

Elsewhere the security challenge is also closer to home. Western Europe is shaken by the wars of ex-Yugoslavia and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism across the Mediterranean. Japan is consumed with the direct threat posed by North Korea's bid for a nuclear weapon and by the indirect threat of chaos and national collapse in post-communist China.

Security in the cold war was handled by hardware and expression of resolve. But nuclear warheads and diplomatic brinkmanship will not help the Russians much in Georgia or Mr. Clinton in the Caribbean. Instead of instant annihilation from afar, presidents Clinton and Yeltsin confront the lesser but still profoundly unsettling dangers of getting mug-ged in their own "neighbour-hoods."

The comparison is far from perfect. America's involvement in the Caribbean, whatever its flaws, is in no way comparable to Russia's im-perialistic and brutal overwhelming of its neighbours in the past.

But collectively the threats on the periphery of America, Russia, Western Europe and Japan create a need for new and more focused concepts of security in international relations. Many of the common dangers to international stability are now concentrated in the neighbourhoods that surround the world's power centres.

The dramatic change in the nature and proximity of national security challenges requires Mr. Clinton, Mr. Yeltsin and their peers to look two ways at once for a while. They should handle Haiti, Georgia. Algeria and so on as neighbourhood challenges that also contain long-term implications for the organisation of a new balance of global stability.

The major powers must gradually fashion a collective effort to define the new mechanisms and mind-sets for these close-in security challenges. Eventually this effort would require a new collective forum, whose size and author-ity should be somewhere on the spectrum between the Group of Seven and NATO on the one hand and the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the

United Nations on the other. That regrouping is still a long way off, however, and Haiti and Georgia challenge Mr. Cliaton and Mr. Yeltsin (in vastly different ways) now. What they do to show they can manage their neighbourhoods

in a fair and effective manner

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will cast a long shadow across the approach to conflict resolution beyond the cold war.

That is why Haiti counts so much more for Mr. Clinton than did Somalia, an unfamiliar neighbourhood where America's involvement was never sufficient to affect significantly that country's future.

If Haiti is a milestone towards the future, Somalia was a legacy of the recent past. of the old competitive security of the cold war, when Moscow and Washington fed weapons to local toughs to affect a largely illusory global balance of

power.

The illusion of winning or losing U.S. security in distant places like Somalia is gone today. But the warlords, their weapons and struggles remain. When America got mugged in Somalia, the Clinton administration trotted out the old zerosum security language about showing resolve and deterring aggression elsewhere, to no

great effect. Something of the overkill of the old global crusade also creeps into the administration's rhetoric on Haiti, which

is cited as a prime case of America's commitment to "enlarging democracy." But the problem is that a bunch of thugs hold an impoverished, overpopulated house in the neighbourhood and need to be kicked out.

That is an attainable and worthy goal for American leadership that can be carried out without direct military intervention. Sanctions can achieve the Haitian junta's downfall. But sanctions will not convert Haiti into a model for global democracy. Doing so will require a much larger

Mr. Yeltsin faces a far more dangerous and difficult situa-tion as Russian military and diplomatic involvement grows in Georgia's civil war, in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and in combating the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the former Soviet republics of

West to join their efforts in the south, or at least to extend understanding and support for what they are doing. This has led to debate in Western capitals among those who fear a rebirth of Russian imperialism and those who would give Mr. Yeltsin a relatively free hand in his own neighbourhood if that is what is needed to save his

government in Moscow. The latter approach is the right one, if Mr. Yeltsin also thinks small and keeps his actions limited to the neighbourhood scale. He must understand that the United States will not endorse the kind of unbridled violence that Russian troops have used in the region in the past and will not endorse assertion by Russia of a right to intervene in Ukraine or the Baltics in any manner.

The cold war was a global state of mind. There could be no complete security while nuclear bombers and rockets were on constant alert. Now we realise that there can be no complete security while neigh-bours remain in despair and turmoil. It is a message as old as the Bible, but one we are obliged to relearn from time to time — The Washington Post.

Croatia — epitome of courage and humaness The following is a copy of a letter to General Jean Cot. Force Commander, UNPROFOR, Zagreb sent by M.C. Bassiouni, chairman of the Commission of Experts established pursuant

to Security Council Resolution 780 (1992) in November. In the letter, copies of which were also sent to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali; and T.H. Stoltenberg, special repre-sentative of Mr. Ghali, Mr. Bassiouni highlighted the role being played by the Jordanian confingent in former Yugosla-This is to express appreciation for the support that you U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and Civil Affairs have given

After our visit to Zagreb, I went to Sector West to inspect the work of our team which was engaged in exhuming a reported mass grave near Polyaris-Paerse. For your information, the reports we had were that the mass grave contained between 1,700-2,500 bodies. After a thorough search by a world renowned team of 18 forensic experts from eight countries gathered by Physicians for Human Rights and supported by a Dutch engineering unit (22) mich the American commitment. 19 bodies were found.

Central Asia. The Russians are asking the friendly. Their support was crucial to the success of our

woman" and was taken there by a number of Jordanian officers and soldiers. Indeed, there she was. On her table was a large plate filled with what we had at the hospitale luncheon. Everyone of the Jordanians who accompanied me knew her, and the affectionately called her "Baku" which I was told means grandmother. They joked with her and she with them. It was a heart-warming scene. Human kindness at its best in the midst of devastated surroundings.

In the midst of so many negative accounts about UNPRO-FOR and the United Nations' work, I thought it significant to evidence this single account which is no doubt only one of so many other acts of courage and humaneness by UNPROFOR and by so many others involved in the humanitarian effort in the former Yugoslavia. Instances such as those should be more

winter, the hope of warm summer is dominant in h nature." Such acts of human kindness keep that hope alive of a

Collapse of superpower rivalry raises new hopes and old conflicts

By Charles J. Gans The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Images that were once unimaginable grab-bed the headlines: Yasser Ara-fat and Yitzhak Rabin shaking hands at the White House. Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk sharing the Nobel Peace

In 1993, old conflicts from the Middle East to Cambodia moved closer to resolution, benefiting from superpower riv-als-turned-friends. But the end of the East-West standoff also unleashed long-suppressed ethnic and religious strife in the former Soviet republics

and Yugoslavia. In the "new world order," Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin were plagued by domestic problems and less able to shape world events than their predecessors at the White House and Kremlin.

While the U.S.-and Russian-backed Middle East peace talks sputtered along, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation secretly negotiated their agreement on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat, ostracised by

moderate Arab states for supporting Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war, made yet another com-eback to be welcomed in western capitals as a peacemaker. But Palestinian militants and

right-wing Israeli settlers tried to undermine the PLO-Israel accord.

In South Africa, former enemies shared the Nobel Peace Prize for working peacefully to end apartheid and push their country to democracy. Mr. Mandela asked the world community to lift economic sanctions, ending decades of international isolation for South

But black and white extremists sought to derail the country's first multiracial elections set for next April. Despite rising hopes for peace in some trouble spots.

there were armed conflicts in more than 20 countries, mostly as a result of civil strife. At ica was the hardest-hit continent, with major conflicts raging in Angola, Sudan, Liberia and Burundi, killing tens of thousands and displacing hundreds of thousands.
There were fewer left-wing insurgencies, but more religious conflicts. Islamic fundamentalists struggled to overthrow the governments of Egypt and Algeria. India experienced its worst Hindu-Muslim communal violence

since independence. Tensions rose between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, where Muslim militants pressed a campaign for independence. In Sri Lanka, peace talks between the government and Tamil secessionists were put on hold after the assassination of

President Ranasinghe Premadasa by a suicide bomber. China kept a tight lid on dissent, but leader Deng Xiaoping's call to set up a market economy triggered an

economic boom. But in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. the drive toward democracy hit

some roudblocks. The year began with the Czechs and Slovaks peacefully breaking up their 74-year-old

confederation. Poland's anti-communist President Lech Walesa fretted as voters, frustrated by the hardships of economic reform.

elected a leftist coalition, including former communists. The bloodiest war in Europe since World War II continued to rage in the former Yugos-

The United States. Russia, European Community and the United Nations all failed to end the carnage among Muslims. Serbs and Croats in Bosnia, where more than 200,000 people were dead and more than 2 million left homeless.

Unable to agree on a partition plan, the warring Bosnian factions tried to change the map on the battlefield. Residents of besieged Sarajevo began their second winter of war threatened by hunger, disease and Serb shelling.
Moscow witnessed its worst

political violence since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. Mr. Yeltsin dissolved the hardline legislature obstructing his reforms and had the army storm the parliament building. The Russian president then scheduled a nationwide vote Dec. 12 for a new parliament and

Beset by problems at home. Mr. Yeltsin could not do much to halt strife in former Soviet republics.

Eduard Shevardnadze, a

world figure as Soviet foreign minister, found himself leader of a disintegrating Georgia, forced to flee for his life from Abkhazian rebels. Christian Armenia and Mus-

lim Azerbaijan fought over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Tajikistan. in Central Asia, was gripped by a civil war between former communists and Islamic forces that killed tens of thousands.

The end of the Soviet empire left the United States the sole remaining superpower. But that didn't help the new U.S. president get his way abroad. The year began with U.S. warships off the coast of Haiti

to prevent a mass exodus by refugees. It ended with U.S. ships blockading the Caribbean nation to enforce a U.N. embargo after Haitian military leaders reneged on an agree-ment to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Saddam Hussein, having outlasted George Bush, continued to challenge U.N. weapons inspectors and menace Iraqi Kurds and Shiite Muslims, despite a U.N. embargo and occasional U.S. air strikes.

Libya's Muammar Qadhafi ignored U.N. sanctions as he defied U.S. and British de-mands to turn over suspects in the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland. The world's last communist

dictators hung on. Fidel Castro resisted democratic reforms as the Cuban economy crumbled. Mr. Clinton warned North Korea's aging Kim Il Sung that his country would not be allowed to build a nuclear

Warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed bloodied peacekeeping troops from the United States and other countries in Somalia, where a successful U.S.-led famine relief operation turned into a nation-building debacle for the United Nations.

The United Nations enjoyed more success in bringing peace to the killing fields of Cambodia. Prince Norodom Sihato recapture power, was rein-stated as head of state after U.N.-organised multiparty

elections. There were other notable political comebacks: Benazir Bhutto reclaimed the prime minister's post in Pakistan; Socialist Andreas Papandreou returned as Greek premier after voters rejected the conservative government's painful

austerity measures.

Turkish Premier Tansu Ciller became the third woman to head a predominantly Muslim, country after Mrs. Bhutto and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh.

Corruption scandals led to the impeachment of two South American presidents — Venezuela's Carlos Andres Perez and Brazil's Fernando Collor de Mello.

Carlo Ciampi, the first Ita-lian premier to be unaffiliated with a political party in 40 years, took office as more than 3,000 politicians, businessmen and public officials were implicated in corruption cases.

Japanese Prime Minister Monhiro Hosokawa led a new coalition government that pledged to end scandals over kickbacks and other corruption that brought down the Liberal Democratic Party after 38 years in power.

Kim Young-Sam, a longtime dissident, was sworn in as South Korea's first civilian president in 32 years. But Nigeria's generals nullified the results of elections that would have returned Africa's most populous nation to civilian rule after a decade of military dictatorship.

Voters in Canada and France - discontented with economic woes - booted out the governing parties.
Conservative Edouard Bal-

ladur became France's premier after a right-wing coalition crushed the Socialist Party at the polls.

In Canada, Kim Campbell, who became Canada's first woman prime minister when Brian Mulroney stepped down. suffered a humiliating defeat when her Progressive Conservatives were routed by Jean Chretien's left-of-centre

supported by a Dutch engineering unit (33), with the participation of Canadian military investigations (four), only

The areas of search, exhumation and preliminary field forensic analysis were under the protection of the Jordanian Battalion under, the command of Colonel Maged Al Mokabala. The unit directly involved was commanded by Major Bashir Abdul Rahman. The unanimous account of all our team participants was that the Jordanians were efficient and friendly. Their representations of the colonial to the colonial team of the colonial team.

mission and we commend them to you.

During this mission something anecdotal occurred which I felt compelled to recount to you because of its extraordinary significance. During my visit to Sector West, the sector Commander Brigadier-General Kamai Shabsough invited me to a traditional lorderies bedouin least In the commender of to a traditional Jordanian bedouin lunch. In the course of the meal, he called one of his officers and asked in Arabic whether someone had taken some of the food to the "old woman". The officer replied in the positive. I was curious enough to inquire about the "old woman". The brigadier-general then told me that a few kilometres away there were seven Serb villages which had been destroyed by the Croatians and are now totally uninhabited but for an old woman, now 81. She was too old and too weak to run, so she hid and survived. The Jordanians found her and since they arrived some two years ago they have been caring for her. Every day they send one or two patrols to her house, bring her food daily, chop wood for her and their doctor visits her periodically. The Jordanian's quiet, dignified, humane, yet stern attitude has insured this woman's survival.

Curious about this situation, I asked to go see the "old

Actually and symbolically these UNPROFOR forces have demonstrated that they save lives and maintain peace. widely known and surely your forces should also know that such acts are recognised and appreciated.

To paraphrase Albert Camus: "In the bitterness of cold

The vicious circle of violence

To the Editor:

After reading Waleed Sadi's article "Where does children's criminal responsibility start?" (Jordan Times, Dec. 6, 1993), I formulated some ideas that I would like to share with your

The old saying "Knowledge is a two-edged weapon" gains more ground whenever a new technological device is produced. The murder of the two-year old Bulger demonstrates the threatening potential of televised violence. This outrageous crime must have been a touchy experience for those people immediately involved in it, like the victim's family, the convicts and their families. Yet, I think the inhumanity of the crime, especially the cold-bloodedness with which it was

carried out, escapes nobody's attention.

As a matter of fact, this crime may be an indication of the homicidal menace awaiting human beings in the long run. The modern tendency towards technologising every aspect of our, lives, indiscriminately, is now paying back. Industrialists are mainly concerned with the sale percentage of their products disregarding the human factor and the negative impact their products might have.

The horror video which one of the two eleven-year-old convicts, Job Venables, is suspected to have watched some time before committing the crime is in no way to be considered the only immoral and evil film the child could have watched. Children of approximately their age all over the world are exposed to such films through sponsored TV channels, cinemas, or rented videos.

Mr. Sadi, in his article, brought the legality of the passed on

the children harsh sentence in focus and wishes to "turn the finger of accusation away from the children, first to their parents and second to the society and governments."

What I would like to emphasis has little to do with the

judicial processes of the trial. Yes, parents are indisputably accountable for the upbringing of their children. However, I think that it is prejudicial to condemn a father — Venable's father in this case — for renting and maybe displaying a horror video at home. After all, a pitilessly murderous mind like young Job's could not have fully developed in a correspondent reaction to one and only one horror video.

Tens of films celebrating various kinds of pathetically ruthless and degenerate heroes are being produced every week. The two little convicts, and any other child for that matter, might be able to give at least a dozen names of such

The evil behind this crime is beyond these two children, their parents or even their limited societies. This crime is of international concern and must be dealt with on this basis. The irresponsible and narrow-minded creators and stereotypical heroes of violence on screen are still unaware of their counterproductive contribution to civilisation. The damage they have caused could easily go beyond repair unless all advocates of human civilisation hold hands determinedly to build a civilisation fit for human beings instead of robots. On the other hand, if no dramatic change occurs, we are liable to hear about and meet on the street more Bulgers, Thomsons

> Lutti Hussein P.O. Box 2446. Yarmouk University,

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Capital punishment

How humane can death be?

By Waleed Sadi

THE international debate on the death penalty has taken a new twist when the so-called "abolishionists" began to split hairs over what contemporary form of capital punishment is "humane and not degrading" and what is not. After losing the battle over whether to outlaw the death penalty altogether or not, the oponents of this severe punishment are deploying other tactics in a bid to arrive at the same result in a roundabout way. By asserting that whereas capital punishment is still legal under existing international and local norms, many current methods for carrying out the sentence is so "inhuman and degrading," that it cannot be applied.

What brought this tactic into focus is the developing controversy over carrying out death penalty by gas asyphixiation as practiced in some American states. Some human rights activists claim that this method is so slow and painful that such jurisdictions that still apply it should commute the death sentence to imprisonment instead. Advocates of the death penalty or those who condone it on the basis that it is acceptable under international human rights treaties and is still on the law books of many nations of the world readily rebut this charge by pointing out that all forms of executions are extremely painful and in a sense "inhuman". no matter what method is deployed. Therefore, as long as capital punishment for the most serious crimes is acceptable under international and domestic laws, states have got to apply one form of execution or another as long as it is not so primitive or savage as to include, for example, crucifixion, which is clearly unacceptable.

The troubling issue for the human rights activists who fight tooth and nail the death penalty and are literally splitting hairs over the mechanics of this penalty is the obvious fact that condemned persons waiting on death row for even the shortest possible time suffer anguish and psychological pain of immense magnitude no matter how "humane" may the method of execution appear to be. Given the fact that some form of preparation or another always preceds the carrying out of the death sentence, the victim would naturally undergo extreme suffering and mental anguish before his or her death. Many such people simply collapse physically and psychologically as the moment for their death approaches. To argue therefore that some methods of carrying out the capital, punishment are "humane" and others are not would not seem to hold much water even with the best of intentions.

Human Rights File

In another development on the application of the death penalty, Japan for example, does not tell the family of the condemned person about the date of execution till it is over and done with. This practice came under close scrutiny lately when Tokyo introduced its third periodic report to the international Human Rights Committee (HRC) and was found wanting on that score. It was thought that condemned criminals need ample time to prepare themselves for their death by communicating with their families and loved ones prior to its implementation. Equally, the families of the condemned people are also entitled to adequate time to discuss family matters with them prior to the ending of their lives. A new body of international norms is actually slowly developing not only on the most vexing issue of whether the penalty can still be applied but als connected with capital punishment. Yet, in the final analysis, it is the capital punishment itself that will continue to haunt humanity. And as long as convicted criminals manage to end their incarcerations rather prematurely and roam the streets one again due to the extension of their legal safeguards, the call for the retention of the capital punishment would continue

As for the immediate issue of what is an acceptable form for carrying out such a severe sentence and what is not, it is doubtful that this dimension could ever find an equitable resolution since the nature of the punishment per se makes it seem "inhuman and degrading" no matter how "humane" some styles for its implementation are made to seem. Meanwhile, the HRC charged with the mandate of interpreting the various clauses of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) can be expected to continue to be seized with this aspect of the capital punishment with some members who are totally opposed to this punishment, capitalising on the differences between the various contemporary forms of carrying out the sentence as means to defeat its application altogether.

There is only an initial memorandum of understand-

ing, he said, and it is not being handled by bureaucrats.

Debate on peace process
(Continued from page 1) Cabinet."

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan Television did not air any coverage of the expellees during the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jordan in March 1993. The House includes minister's answers to questions submitted by members of the 11th Parliament if lawmakers

circle

we

request so.

Mr. Mansour, a member of the Islamic Action Front, said he was not convinced by the minister's explanation that technical reasons and the emergence of other news stories accounted for the limited coverage.

He described as "unobjective" the coverage of Jordan Television, adding that he would ask for a vote of no confidence in the minister if the information policy was not "corrected."

Mr. Abu Nowar said Jordan Television was doing an "excellent job" in its news coverage and rejected as unacceptable implications that the limited coverage of the expellees in March 1993 was connected to the visit of Mr. Christopher to Jordan.

Demanding an explanation of reported plans by Jordanian banks to reopen branches in the West Bank before reaching an economic agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Deputy Samir Habashneh charged that this issue was being handled by

Mr. Abu Nowar said the reopening of Jordanian banks' branches in the West Bank had nothing to do with the economic agreement with the PLO, adding that the "issue is still being studied and has not yet been presented to the

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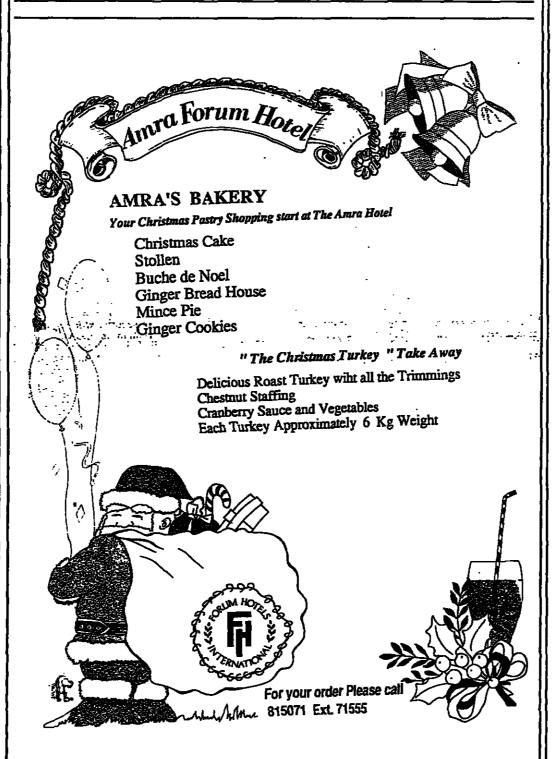
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UAE

OPEC unlikely to hold crisis talks to stem falling oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is not hikely to hold emergency talks to rescue plunging oil prices and will await the outcome of Oman's contacts with other producers. Gulf oil sources said Sunday.

·Although prices have remained below \$14, there was no signal from Saudi Arabia or other major producers in the Gulf that they would take any immediate action to lift prices from their lowest level in five

"I do not think Gulf states are in favour of an emergency meeting because they apparently want to give OPEC's recent output agreement time to work," said one Gulf oil source, close to the

tion. But it has made clear it wait and see the results of than 700,000 b/d. Oman's consultations with

Omani Oil Minister Said Ibn h ld their annual summit talks believed OPEC should return to Ahmad Al Shanfari is due to tour several members of the so-called Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC) to urge them to reduce output to support OPEC's bid in boosting prices.

The sultanate, which has acted as a link between OPEC and IPEC, took the lead last week by announcing it would cut five to 10 per cent from its oil production of 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) in January.

An Omani oil ministry official, contacted by telephone Sunday, said Mr. Shanfari had not vet prepared the programme of his trip.

OPEC has blamed independent producers, mainly Britain and Norway, for the price fall and decided to maintain its output ceiling at 24.52 million "An emergency meeting bid for the period between means OPEC will trim produc-October and March. According to Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali will no longer play the residual Al Baghli, production from the producer. I believe it prefers to North Sea had risen by more

Gulf Arab leaders will dis-

Riyadh Monday. But oil seurces ruled out any immediate action on production.

Gulf states suffer heavily from weak oil prices as crude exports account for the bulk of their earnings. Their budgets have been reeling under deficits and some of them have been forced to resort to borrowing.

However, they seem deter-mined to defend their market share despite the drop in prices, in a departure from

previous policy.

In the past Gulf producers cut production when prices fell due to high output by other producers, or raised output to keep prices at moderate levels

to spur demand. Such a policy was adopted after 1986, when oil prices tumbled to below \$10 due to a production war, pushing OPEC's revenues to a record low of \$75 billion, from a peak of \$280 billion in 1980.

In an article published in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej Sunday, Gulf oil other producers." he added. cuss the oil market when they analyst Hassan Fakhru said he

Study sees '94 North Sea oil output up 13%

LONDON (R) — North Sea oil production by Britain and Norway is likely to jump even faster next year after a recordbreaking 1993, according to a

But the report by analysts at the firm of Mackay Consultants warned that weak world oil prices, in part blamed on the rising tide of North Sea barrels, meant the industry has less to invest on drilling new wells for the future.

"We believe that the general trend... will be declining North Sea drilling activity," the study

Mackay Consultants reckon North Sea oil output is likely to rise 13 per cent in 1994 after a gain of 10.5 per cent this yar. The 1994 volume is seen

averaging a record 5.26 million barrels daily after 4.66 million

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Sea producer, with output next year likely to exceed 2.6 million. Britain will be just under 2.45 million.

By comparison, Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest pro-ducer and linchpin of the Orga-nistion of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces 8.0 million.

But the year-on-year gain from the North Sea of 600,000 barrels daily equals twice the output of OPEC's smallest seller. Gabon.

OPEC is already furious at how world prices have dropped this year from around \$20 per barrel to less than \$14.

It says it has run out of patience making cuts in its own quotas to support the market, only to see rising volumes from Britain and Norway create new surpluses.

The study blamed the drop in oil prices partly on global recession which has hit demand but also on overproduction, including bigger North Sea volumes.

"Given that North Sea output is expected to be even higher in 1994, there is there-fore unlikely to be any significant improvement in oil prices unless OPEC agrees to substantial cutbacks. We do not see that happening," the study

But the implications are that the North Sea may not be such a problem for OPEC further into the future.

The study said 14 per cent fewer offshore wells were dril-led in the North Sea

China to become net oil importer next year

BELIING (R) — China has said that after 20 years as an oil exporter it will become a net in 1994 because production cannot keep up with the soaring economy.

The International Business newspaper, published by the ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation, said domestic demand was rising sharply because of the rapid growth in the economy. In the first 10 months of this

year, crude output was 120.585 million tonnes, up 1.9 per cent on the same period in 1992, while industrial output rose 23.2 per cent in the same period.

central bank eases new lending rule

DUBAI (R) — The central bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has eased limits on lending after local banks said new rules would cost them business.

The rules, due to take effect next January, say a bank cannot lend more than seven per cent of its capital to a private institution or borrower or over 25 per cent to a public one.

The seven per cent ratio shall apply to funded exposures only, while letters of credit, letters of guarantee and other unfunded exposures shall not be included in the ratio," a central bank statement said. The ratio originally applied

to all exposures. The change was apparently in response to local banks urging central bank officials last week to make the limits more flexible depending on the type of credit product.

Limits on letters of credit, which play a key role in trade in the UAE, could be more flexible because they were more secure than loans, a banker at a UAE commercial bank told Reuters then.

Coant la

Local banks argued that the new rules would divert capital financing and loan business elsewhere at a time when the UAE's economy was expanding. The UAE's 19 commercial

banks extended credits of almost three billion dirhams (\$817 million) in the first half òf 1993. The statement said the cen-

tral bank considered the lending ratios themselves to be 'quite appropriate.' The new rules are part of

moves by the central bank to regulate commercial banking. A rash of lending in the mid-1980s resulted in the mergers of several local banks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This morning you will have an opportunity to get an enlarged vision of just where your headed, what you can expect in the future and those who are going to be making the journey with you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early in the day you may be able to start tasks on a satisfactory basis but soon conditions arise which put some blocks in the way and tonight quietly enjoy the

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Give attachment proof of your affection in the morning hours then be off to seeking ways by which you can eliminate kinks in your special talent.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get rid of any pressing problems at home early then you can tackle whatever requires your own special attention without bother-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about the various and sundry communications that are must or pressing and get out as quickly as possible, enjoy sim-ple amusements tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Attend to money matters after breakfast, then consider all phases of your present financial condition and do nothing to endanger your security.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have a good idea for

gaining an anticipated goal in the morning but you soon find there are too many difficulties attend-ing gaining it, so postpone as

LIBRA: (September 23 to Octo-ber 22) You feel you have far too many limiting conditions at pre-sent to move forward as you wish but take them one at a time and SCORPIO: (October 23 to: November 21) Those friends you

phase of a personal goal you wish are too preoccupied with your own activities to do so now. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22

to December 21) You need to be as wise as the serpent and as barmless as the dove in all outside, public or vocational matters today and tonight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You had better stick to a course of action already put into motion although you are discounted and wish to make some radical changes

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are inclined to squabble over some account or statement but be sure of your facts and figures and then you'll be wise to pick a better time. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Avoid the likelihood today to have some drawn out conversation with a partner or associate for it could lead quickly to some bad feelings.

Top banker says Germans has to make sacrifices

FRANKFURT (R) - A leading German banker says Germans have to be prepared to make sacrifices as the country grapples with the huge costs of unification.

Horst Koehler, president of the German Savings Banks Association, told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung newspaper that real wages in western Germany would have to fall for some years to come.

"There is no way of returning to healthy state finances without social hardships, added Mr. Koehler, who until recently was a senior official in the Bonn finance ministry.

. In comments likely to irritate trade unions, Mr. Koehler also said western Germany could not transfer five per cent of its economic production to eastern Germany and at the same time maintain wages at current levels.

"There is no alternative: Real incomes in western Ger-WILL Drodadiy nave to ta for a few years, he emphasised.

In a separate interview published at the weekend, Klaus Zwickel, head of Germany's largest union, I.G. Metall. gave warning of industrial conflict and possible riots if German employers did not soften their call for cuts in wages.

Making clear that I.G. Metall wanted to achieve pay increases in line with inflation at the very least, Mr. Zwickel said the union would be forced to strike if management did not change its position.

That in turn would prompt lock-outs by the management that would lead to political and social turmoil.

In his interview, Mr. Koehler predicted a further rise in German unemployment in 1994 and said economic growth next year and in 1995 would not be sufficient to create more jobs than were being lost through corporate restruc-

Mr. Koehler also said Germany's debt problems were now so large that all sectors of society had to help. State benefits would increasingly have to be limited to what was really

He believed the reductions

ticularly important for Germans to assume more responsi-

bility for themselves as far as social welfare was concerned. "The fully comprehensive cover that we have now can no

in social benefits had to be

considered as part of a reform

of the unemployment benefit

Mr. Koehler said it was par-

longer be financed," he added. Mr. Koehler said the Bonn government's initial aim had to be to bring public sector deficits down to three per cent of gross domestic product GDP), as stipulated in the

Maastricht union treaty. Germany's total public sector deficit is now around 7.5

Ukraine's parliament gives tacit approval to reforms

government's eighth attempt in two years to bring an economic tailspin under control. but backed away from any respon-

sibility on carrying it out. The programme, which seeks to bring under control monthly inflation of 70 per cent, combines some market reforms with renewed centralised control over export, pro-

duction and hard currency. It proposes speeding up privatisation, liberalising the tax system, and cutting subsidies for energy to most state firms.

But it stops short of radical

KIEV (R) - Ukraine's parlia- market reforms, such as price ment gave tacit approval to the liberalisation, establishment of real currency markets, and a halt to heavy subsidies to industry and agriculture.

"We need short-term stabilisation measures before a fullfledged economic programme can be effective," Minister Roman Shpek told journalists.

A budget and economic programme for 1994 would be presented to parliament later this month, he said.

Economy

The Soviet-era parliament. dominated by conservatives, was not obliged to approve or

reject the programme.

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the role of "swing producer."

policy of high prices at the

expense of production, be-

cause the current policy is

pushing it into a deep abyss, as was the case in 1986," Mr.

President Ali Akbar Hashe-

mi Rafsanjani Saturday

blamed "global arrogance" for

falling oil prices, saying West-ern powers were trying to put

Cited by the official IRNA news agency, Mr. Rafsanjani

told a gathering of Tehran Uni-

versity students that the coun-

try's resources were being used

appropriately, despite all the

obstacles created by global

more pressure on Iran.

Fakhru said.

"OPEC should return to the

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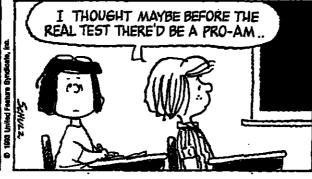
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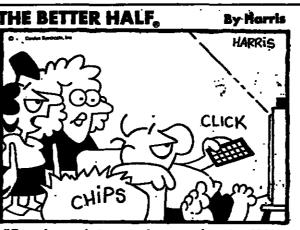


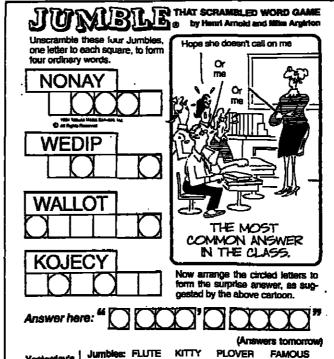
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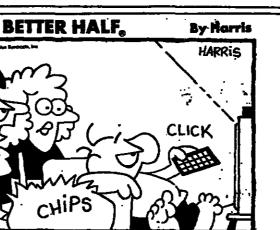
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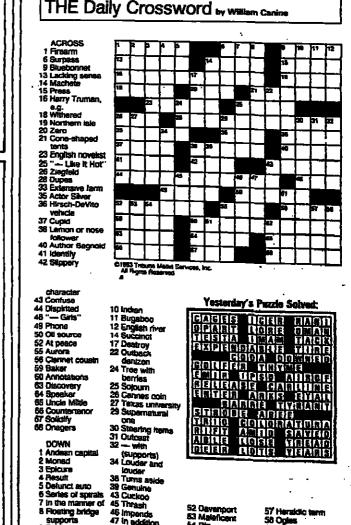


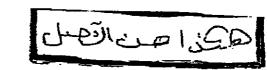


The cops were at the crooks' barbecue for this — A "STEAK OUT"



"Stanley might read some books if he could turn the pages with a remote control.'





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Financial Markets

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Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 13 - December 17)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit was generally higher against other major currencies last week, as it closed Friday 0.71 per cent higher against the mark, 0.57 per cent higher against Sterling and 0.90 per cent higher against the yen.

After closing at 1.6973 marks at the end of the previous

week, the dollar marginally appreciated against the mark and Sterling Monday, while it depreciated slightly against the yen. The dollar was reported to have depreciated against the mark during trading hours, following a newspaper report quoted a Bundesbank source as saying that the Bundesbank might not cut German interest rates further by years end. But short covering caused the dollar to rebound and close in New York at 1.7080 later in the day.

The dollar's rally against the mark was also attributed to the release of poor German economic data. Retail sales in the western parts of Germany showed a decline of 7.4 per cent in October, against expectations of 4.7 per cent. On the other hand, comments made by the Japanese prime minister concerning the on-going GATT talks had no affect on the dollar. He indicated that Japan would accept rice imports within certain limits for six years starting from 1995.

The dollar moved higher against other major currencies Tuesday, in response to growing expectations that the Bundesbank might ease its monetary policy on Thursday. It was also supported by safe-haven currency flows after the winning of the Russian Nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky in the Russian elections. On the other hand, the release of U.S.. Retail Sales figures showing an increase of 0.4 per cent in November had

no effect on the dollar. The dollar continued its appreciation against the mark and Sterling to reach its highest closing levels Wednesday. This appreciation was attributed to traders' reaction to comments by an American official, who indicated that the U.S. would tolerate a stronger dollar if it caused an economic growth in Europe and a commitment by Japan to decrease its trade surplus with the U.S. Reports also indicated that a large dollar buys order coming out of Switzerland caused an appreciation

of the dollar against the yen. Furthermore, uncertainty over the implications of the political situation in Russia following the winning of the Russian Nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovksy, continued to support the dollar. The dollar, thus closed at 1.7173 marks and

109.77 yen, while Sterling ended at 1.4785 dollars.
On Thursday, however, the dollar drifted against other major currencies, especially the mark, after the Bundesbank maintained its tight stance on Monetary Policy by leaving official interest rates unchanged. The Bundesbank's move ometal interest rates unchanged. The Bundesbank's move came as a result to the continuous growth in money supply above its planned targets, following the release of higher-than-expected German M3 figures, which showed a growth of 7.2 per cent in November from 6.9 per cent in October While trading was choppy Friday, the dollar rallied to finish at its highest closing levels of the week against the yen. The dollar's rally was mainly due to technical considerations and

dollar's rally was mainly due to technical considerations and sales of yen for marks. The Japanese unit also moved lower against the mark closing at 64.47 yen, compared to 64.09 yen the previous day. Analysts indicated that most of the yen's decline against the mark was due to growing sense of pessimism on the prospects of Japanese economic growth in the short term.

In the meantime, a better-than-expected rise of 3.4 per cent in U.S. November Housing Starts figures, failed to have any impact on the dollar. The dollar, thus ended the week at 1.7094 marks and 110.20 yen, while Sterling ended it at

10/12/93 Close	17/12/1993 Close	Percent Change		
1.4945	1.4860	(0.57)%		
1,6973	1.7094	[0.71]%		
1.4540	1.4615	(0.51)%		
5.8110	5.8380	10.4618		
109-21	110.20	10.9018		
	Close 1.4945 1.6973 1.4540 5.8110	Close Close 1.4945 1.4860 1.6973 1.7094 1.4540 1.4615 5.8110 5.8380		

	10/1	2/1993	17/12/1993		
Спитенсу			-Neath (%)	I-Year (%)	
U.S. Dollar	3.21	3.56	3.06	3.62	
Sterling Pound	5.50	5.00	5.69	5.12	
Deutsche Mark	6.18	5.12	6.62	5.31	
Swiss Franc	4.25	3.62	4.50	3.78	
French Franc	6.68	5.43	6.59	5.68	
Japanese Yen	2.34	1.87	2.31	1.81	
Interhank hid rates for amounts exceeding 2.5. Dellars 1,000,000 or equivalent					

Hyundai, Honda to set up car plants in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Japan's Honda Motor Co. Ltd. and South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co. will set up car plants in Turkey with Turkish partners, government officials have said.

They said the Turkish treasury had allowed a three trillion lira (\$208 million) Hyundai investment with Turkey's Assan Group and an investment of 2.7 trillion lira (\$188 million) by Honda with Anadolu Endustri Holding. The Turkish partners will

have a 50 per cent share in each joint venture. Officials said both plants would be set up in the western province of Kocaeli and have an annual production capacity of 100,000 cars.

Cement crisis easing in Arab Gulf states ABU DHABI (AFP) — A cement supply crisis in wealthy Gulf Arab states is easing due

to expansion projects and a decision to lift restrictions on imports, an official Gulf report

has said. "The market is on its way to stability again," said the report by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy

(GOIC), which advises on industrial policies in the 12-yearold Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC).
"This is due to the import of large quantities of cement and clinker and decisions to set up new plants and carry out expansion projects," it pointed

GCC states have suffered

from their worst ever cement shortage over the past two years due to a surge in demand caused by an upswing in construction following the Gulf

The six members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - have around 20 major cement plants with a designed capacity of nearly 30 million tonnes a year. Saudi Arabia, the world's

top oil producer and exporter, is the biggest Gulf cement producer, with a capacity of more than 18 million tonnés a year, But actual production has steadily declined over the past seven years to 17.12 million

tonnes in 1991, from 19 million

tonnes in 1989 and 22 million tonnes in 1986, due to weak demand.

The crisis prompted some GCC members to slash tariffs on cement imports to face domestic demand while industry ministers decided last month to cancel a ban on licences for building new cement

Israeli industrial exports surge

TEL AVIV (R) — Finance Minister Avraham Shohat forecast Sunday that Israel's industrial exports would grow by a record 17-18 per cent this year and top \$10 billion.

"Apparently this year will be a record year in the increase in industrial exports," he told reporters. "We are talking in the area of between 17 and 18 per cent after ... a 12 per cent rise

Mr. Shohat, presenting an economic overview ahead of a parliamentary budget debate this week, said the main export growth was in electronics and metals, which together registered a 33 per cent rise. He did not give any dollar figures. Agricultural exports main-

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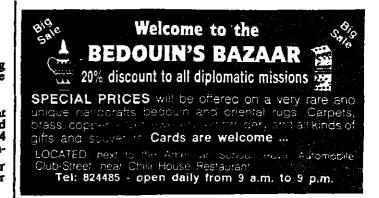
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tained their 1992 level, earning Israel \$550 million in 1993, he

Mr. Shohat forecast that year-on-year inflation would edge past 11 per cent after 9.4 per cent in 1992. He put unemployment at about 10.3 per cent compared with 11.4 per cent last year.



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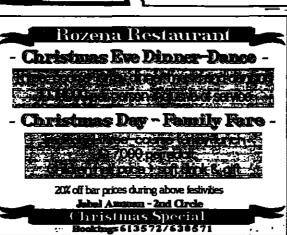
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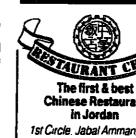
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Russia opposes sanctions against Pyongyang

North Korea has several atomic bombs, report says

HONG KONG (Agencies) North Korea possesses several small nuclear bombs and the means of delivering and trig-gering them, a Hong Kong

newspaper reported Sunday.
The Sunday Morning Post, in a report from Beijing, gave as its source two senior European diplomats based in the Chinese capital who had just returned from Pyongyang.

"North Korea has, in our opinion, the full capacity to enrich natural uranium and graphite of North Korean origin, and has built several kilo-sized bombs. We established, as well, that testing sites exist," the newspaper quoted one Western diplomat as writing in a report.

North Korea's "secret crater-like test site is on the banks of the Kuryong River," the newspaper said, close to a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon 95 kilometres north of Pyon-

gyang.
The envoys also concluded the North Koreans had finally perfected ignition devices for nuclear weapons and had adapted their Scud-B missiles to carry weapons of mass destruction.

Pyongyang has also acquired mobile launching vehicles the chassis of Iveco heavy duty trucks made by Fiat of Italy, the newspaper quoted the envovs as saving.

The newspaper quoted the sources as saying North Korea had imported high-explosive testing material and neutron initiator materials such as polonium 210 and tritium.

But Pyongyang had not per-formed a full-scale nuclear test which would be detectable overseas, it said.

"However, heat output measurements of North Korea's nuclear reactor have given some estimates of the amount of putonium they have produced - believed to be enough for at least half a dozen bombs," the newspaper said.

The North denies it is developing nuclear weapons but has refused to allow international inspectors to verify the claim.

Pyongyang threatened in March to pull out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty rather than bow to international pressure to open up two suspect sites at Yongbyon to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It agreed to suspend its withdrawal after securing high-level talks with Washington. But negotiations are at an impasse, raising the possibility the United States and its allies may seek U.N. sanctions. Pyongyang has said it is pre-pared to risk sanctions, even

The Post report said the envoys met Kim Jong-II, the engimatic 51-year-old heir apparent who very rarely meets

war, rather than accept U.S.

Western visitors. It gave no details about how they gathered their information on the reported nuclear

weapons programme.

Meanwhile, a Seoul press report Sunday quoted Vice

Foreign Minister Georgi Kunadze as saying Russia be-lieves imposing U.N.sanctions to pressure North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities would be counterproductive.

Mr. Kunadze told Yonhap News Agency in a Moscow-datelined story that U.N. sanc-tions against North Korea could lead to war. Pyongyang has warned in the past it would take "self-defensive measures" against such U.N. measures.

"But now the dialogue between North Korea and the United States is under way, so we need to wait for the results," said Mr. Kunadze. Discussing military or economic sanctions at the current stage is not helpful to settlement of the North Korean nuc-

Kunadze added that South Korean President Kim Young-Sam planned to visit Russia next year, but that de-tails of the visit had yet to be worked out. A top Seoul official was quoted in the Yonhap report as saying Russian offi-cials were hoping Mr. Kim would visit around June.

Mr. Kunadze will take over as Russian ambassador to South Korea in January amid mounting tension over Pyongyang's alleged nuclear

weapons programme.

His remarks were the clearest yet that Moscow would oppose international sanctions to pressure its former Communist ally, North Korea, to allow inspections of its secretive nuclear facilities.

Russia, which has moved closer to Seoul since the demise of Soviet communism. has the power to block any such move with its veto as one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

China, the sole Communist nation with a permanent seat on the Security Council, has repeatedly indicated over the past year that it might use its veto to block any such move against its ally North Korea.

The United States, which,

together with Britain and France, completes the permanent five members of the Council, has backed away in recent months from earlier threats to seek U.N. sanctions.

A Seoul press report Saturday said North Korea, in working-level talks to be held Monday in New York with the United States, would accept, with "a few reservations," a recent U.S. offer aimed at breaking the nuclear impasse.

The report said Washington, in working-level talks on Dec. 10, had offered to announce a cancellation of joint U.S.-South Korean war games in exchange for renewed International's Atomic Energy Agen-cy inspections of Pyongyang's nuclear facilities.

Mr. Kunadze, in the interview, said Russia supported a 1992 inter-Korean nuclear ban accord which broke down at the working level, adding that peace on the Korean peninsula was important to the security of Russia and all North East



60 feared dead in Colombia mudslide

Colombian rescue workers have recovered 30 bodies and fear more than 30 other missing people are also dead after a mud slide swept through a town in northwestern Colombia. a red cross official said Saturday. Workers searched through the rubble of what was left of a small farming town in Antioquia province about 180 kilometres northwest of Medellin for the issing. A rain-swollen La Desmotadora stream

sent mud sweeping through the town of Dabeiba Friday evening injuring 36 people and de-molishing 25 houses including a retirement home. About 290 people were left homeless. Water and electricity to the town were cut. The photograph shows rescue workers and residents searching for bodies through the debris (AFP

Russian premier attacks Gaidar

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin attacked the architect of Boris Yeltsin's radical market reforms this weekend in the first clear sign of pressure for policy changeafter last week's elections.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's blunt criticism of Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar raises questions over the future of the man who, as head of the proreform electoral campaign, bears some blame for the breakthrough by militant nationalist Vladimir Zhir-

"We should face the truth and admit that many people voted against the hardships and mistakes of the current reforms rather than for any specific political platform,

Mr. Chernomyrdin said. The election defeat is a personal evaluation of Gaidar as the person responsible for the Economics Ministry. The same goes for (Privatisation Minister Anatoly) Chubais.

They should think it over hard. They have a lot to think about now," he told the conservative Trud newspaper.
Mr. Chernomyrdin said he

had warned Gaidar against his "shock therapy" reforms when he launched them in January 1992. Nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky had fed on the failures of those policies in last Sunday's polls for the new State Duma.

"It was wrong to jump into the river without testing the water first," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Mr. Yeltsin was forced to drop Gaidar as acting prime minister and replace him with Mr. Chernomyrdin in December 1992 under pressure from a conservative parliament.

Conservatives had expected Mr. Chernomyrdin, a man solidly backed by the marshals of state industry, to ease a financial squeeze and free more funds to prop up major enterprises.

But Mr. Chernomyrdin remained loyal to the tenets of the reform programme and personally to Mr. Yeltsin — a loyalty he restated recently on television.

The question now arising is whether Mr. Yeltsin can retain Mr. Gaidar in the face of a fractious parliament that, far from being the obedient disciple of market reforms he had envisaged, may now turn into a hostile adversary to his govern-

Mr. Yeltsin can ill afford to disregard the stark message of the nationalist successes at the Dec. 12 elections. Outside the pro-reform strongholds of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the "credit of trust" Mr. Yeltsin appealed for two years ago is long exhausted.

Leaders of the Russian Communist, Agrarian and Democratic parties have held talks on forming a parliamentary alliance, Interfax News Kinkel said. Agency reported Saturday.

It said leaders of the three groups met Friday and agreed to support each other in the appointment of parliament's future committees and other

Latest official results of the Dec. 12 legislative elections published Saturday in the gov-ernment daily Rossiskye Vesti gave 68 seats to the communists, 49 to the Agrarian Party and 22 to the Democratic Party of Russia led by Nikolai Travkin — a total of 139

The Liberal Democratic Party of Mr. Zhirinovsky is credited with 74 seats.

Pro-reforms parties will not have a majority on their own in the 450-seat Duma.

Anatoly Chubais, a leader of Russia's Choice, the main party backing President Yeltsin, emphasised Saturday the need for an "anti-fascist coalition." ITAR-TASS news agency re-

However, such a coalition would have to include all centrist deputies including those of Travkin's Democratic Party, Rossiskye Vesti noted.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev called on Germany Sunday to keep supporting Russian reforms, fearing his country faced international isolation after the victory of ultra-nationalists in the general elections.

Mr. Kozyrev made the request in talks with his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel in Suzdal, 200 kilometres northwest of Moscow, aides to Mr.

Russian authorities are worried that Germany may seek closer ties with other Central and East European countries after Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party swept last Sunday's poll.

Former Monkee Davy Jones arrested

SELINSGROVE, Pennsylvania (R) — David Thomas Jones, better known as Davi Jones, lead singer for the 1908 television rock group, the Monkees, was jailed on drunk driving charges, police said. Police said Jones was arrested for drunk driving after driving erratically on a state highway near this northeastern Penarya vania town Thursday night. He was freed Friday after posting \$5,000 bail. Jones, 47, was born in Manchester, England now a father of foor, has been living in the rural area since 1987. The Monkees were cro-ated for a 1965 television contedy series about a rock group. but went on to become real-life rock stars with top 40 hits such as I'm a believer and Daydream Believer in 1966 and 1967 respectively.

Garland's Oscar takes a walk

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NEW YORK (R) — Judy Garland's half-sized Oscar won for The Wizard Of Oz was withdrawn from auction Saturday, four days after Vivien Leigh's Best Actress Award was sold for 563,000. Christie's auction bouse said Garland's family withdrew the 6-and-a-half-inch (16.5 cm) tall, gold-plated statuette from sale after deciding to donate it to a private incite. to donate it to a private institu-tion. Garland's Academy Award was to be the highlight of an auction of entertainment memorabilia that included scrapbooks, photographs, and costumes by such Hollywood legends as John Barrymore, Groucho Marx and Gloria Swanson. The day's sale, which included antique toys brought in a total of \$806,314. Garland was 17 when she played Dorothy int he 1939 film and won the aware for best juvenile performance that

Reward posted for manhole cover thieves

DHAKA (AFP) — The mayor of Dhaka has offered a 10,000 taka (\$250) rewards to help catch thieves stealing manhole covers, newspapers reported here Sunday. Mirza Abbas said he was concerned about the thefts, which resulted in serious accidents to pedestrians who fall into the coverless manholes during the night or when roads are flooded in monsoon season. The thieves sell the covers as scrap.

Reattached organ fails to work at first try

MANASSAS, Virginia (R) — John Wayne Bobbitt has tried unsuccessfully — to have sex with an old girlfriend since his penis was reattached after his wife severed it with a kitchen knife, he said in an interview to be aired Tuesday. In the interview, Bobbitt said he had thought his penis had been cut off by accident until doctors told him his wife had used a knife to cut it off, and said he believed his penis had grown longer since its surgical reattachment in June. "I'd say it's a little longer than it was," he said in the interview with Jenny Jones, an NBC talk-show host. NBC provided a transcript of the interview. He and his wife Lorena caught the public's eye in a big way last June when she cut off his penis with a kitchen knife in their Manassas, Virginia apartment. She later threw the severed organ out of her car window as she fled. It was recovered and reattached in hours of micro-surgery. John, 26, was acquit-ted Nov. 10 of charges that he raped Lorena, who is 24. She goes on trial here on Jan. 10 on charges of maliciously wounding her husband. Asked about the incident during the interview, Bobbitt said he had no idea his wife had used a knife until doctors told him. Asked how long it might take before he could again have sex. Bobbitt said it might be "a couple years" but added that he had already tried — and failed.

Koreas dreaming of Venice see snow in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) - After seeing the sights of Stockholm, the South Korean newlyweds next wanted to visit romantic Venice as part of their honeymoon. But instead of the picturesque canals and Piazza San Marco of the Italian Adriatic port, all they saw was a small, snow-covered timber when the Swedish train halted at Vannas, 500 kilometres north of Stockholm. A railway station clerk in Stockholm has misheard Houng Won Paik's English and sold him and his bride Young Chin a ticket to the similar-sounding Swedish community. Sweden's state railway (SJ) came to the rescue: It refunded their fare and booked them on a train heading south to Italy.

Mandela urges black patience, whites not to fear

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela said Sunday the rebuilding of South Africa must begin immediately after the all-race election in South Africa but that change must be gradual to meet black aspirations without scaring off whites.

It could take "some years" for a government led by his African National Congress (ANC) to respond fully to black needs after 300 vears of white supremacy, he told Reuters in an interview.

A programme of national reconstruction and development must immediately be launched," he said. Homes, jobs, education and

health care would be priorities but he had cautionary words for the country's black majority.
We are warning our people against exaggerated expecta-tions. To address these ques-

tions it is necessary for us to mobilise resources," he said. "Change must be gradual. must be smooth. There must chances we introduce must be done in such a way to address the needs of the masses at the same time without frightening

Other key points addressed by Mr. Mandela during an interview in his office at the ANC headquarters in central Johannesburg were:

He accused the government of President F.W. De Klerk. co-recipient of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, of conniving in the violence rending black communities in order to keep blacks from voting and prevent the ANC winning a majority on April 27. He and Mr. De Klerk were not friends.

he said. It would be a "tragic mistake" to underestimate the power of the white ultra-right to destabilise a democratic government. The ANC would make every effort to persuade them to rejoin the transitional process but would never con-

cede a white homeland. Black demands for land and better living standards could be

The world community would rally to support the new South-

> The nation had "every reason to look to the future with confidence and a lot of Mr. Mandela predicted the

ANC and its allies would win the election, but said it would have to deal with Mr. De Klerk's "ruthlessly efficient" National Party. He said violence could result in 40 per cent of blacks staying

away from the polls, if that happened, the National Party would have a chance of victory. "I cannot excuse him (De Klerk) for that because he has the violence. He is conniving in it deliberately because it serves his political objectives." he

Mr. Mandela said Mr. De Klerk had to be given credit for his role in ending apartheid and for being accessible to him

"day or night."
Asked if he and Mr. De

Klerk had become friends despite being political opponents.

he smiled "It's difficult to know what friendship means. Some people give an elaborate definition R means reliable. I means innocent, E means earnest. N

means near. D means dear. "Perhaps if you look at it from that angle, we are not

Mr. Mandela said the furwhite right, which stands aloof from the democracy agreement reached by the government, the ANC and 19 other black and white parties, had a substantial following in the civil service, army and police and ran key installations.

He said the ANC had a duty get them on board but added: "What we are not going to allow, of course, are demands like an Afrikaner Volkstaat (homeland). There is no question of our ever conceding to that demand."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Voters lose trust in Major — poll

LONDON (R) - Prime Minister John Major's conservative government remains deeply unpopular, according to an opinion poll Sunday, citing mistrust among British voters. An ICM poll for the Observer newspaper suggested Mr. Major had failed to build the trust of British voters. Only one in seven people - or 14 per cent - thought he made the best prime minister, against 38 per cent when he won an April 1991 election. Only 11 per cent of more than 1,000 people polled last Monday and Tuesday believed the government was trustworthy, according to the liberal newspaper. The Observer blamed Mr. Major's backtracking over the tax rises for the poor showing but noted the survey came before Mr. Major launched an initiative for peace in Northern Ireland

Court acquits Bhutto's husband

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A Pakistani court Sunda acquitted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of kidnapping — two years after he was charged. "There was nothing in the case, it should not have been brought to the court." a delighted Zardari told reporters at the special court for the suppression of terrorist activities. Zardari has now been acquitted of 10 charges, including one of murder, filed shortly after his wife was sacked as prime minister in August 1990 just 20 months into her five-year term of office. Mr. Zardari was accused of kidnapping a Londonbased Pakistani businessman and demanding 10 million rupees (\$333,000) as ransom. The verdict has yet to be announced on four others charged in the same case. "The applicant (Zardari) was falsely implicated in this case." the judge said in his

Actor Sam Wanamaker dies

LONDON (R) - American actor and director Sami Wanamaker, the inspiration behind the rebuilding of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the River Thames in London, died Saturday at the age of 74. His family said Wanamaker, who had been based in Britain since the 1950s, died at his London home after a five-year battle with cancer. Chicago-born Wanamaker made his stage debut at the age of 17 as a classical actor and appeared in plays throughout the United States and later on Broadway. But, after a long career that also spanned film, television and directing opera, he dedicated the last 25 years to a campaign to build a replica of the 16th century wooden Globe Theatre on its original London site. "Sam Wanamaker's death is a sad loss coming at a time when his long held dream was nearing fulfillment. That dream will still come true," said the trustees of the Shakespeare Globe Trust in a statement. Wanamaker, founder and chief executive of the Globe Trust, travelled the world raising funds for the £8 million (\$11.9 million) project.

CIA memo praises Cedras

MIAMI (R) - A 1992 memo by a top CIA analyst praised Haiti's military strongman General Raoul Cedras as "a conscientious military leader" and claimed there was no evidence of military abuses against civilians, the Miami Herald reported Saturday. The newspaper said it had obtained a secret CIA memo written by the agency's top Latin America analyst. Brian Latell, after a five-day visit to Haiti and the Dominican Republic in July 1992. Mr. Latell's memo said he found "no evidence of oppressive rule" and that "there is no systematic or frequent lethal violence aimed at civilians," the Herald said. The memo, as reported by the Herald, clashed with accounts by human rights monitors of widespread abuses in Haiti and with the U.S. State Department's own assessment of army repression at the time.

No breakthrough in China-Taiwan talks

TAIPEI (AFP) - Taiwan and China failed to achieve a breakthrough on the disputed hijacking issue during the second day of their unprecedented series of talks, although both sides stressed progress had been made. But they did agree to set up an arbitration board to resolve fishery disputes during the talks, the first high-level visit of a Chinese delegation to Taipei in more than 40 years. Negotiators from Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and the Beijing-hased Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) agreed in principle that hijackers claiming political. millitary and religious motives would not be repatriated. However, they bogged down on the wording of what type of hijacker should be excluded from repatriation. If a hijacker who diverts a plane from China to the island is a Taiwan national, he should not be repatriated to the mainland, vice versa the case if the hijacker is a mainland national." said Shi Hwei-You. Taiwan's chief negotiator and deputy secretarygeneral of the SEF.

Abiola renews claim to presidency

LAGOS (R) - Moshood Abiola has renewed his claim to the Nigerian presidency and dismissed speculation he had cut a deal with the new military rulers. In a statement published in Sunday newspapers. Mr. Abiola said he still seeks recognition of annulled June presidential elections despite recent political changes in the country. "I firmly stand by that mandate with all its implications," he said in his first public statement since a new military government seized power last month. Mr. Abiola, a multimillionaire businessman, is widely believed to have won the June 12 election annulled by former military ruler Ibrahim Bahangida, Gen. Bahangida stepped down in August, handing power to an interim government which made way last month for new military strongman General Sani Abacha, Gen. Abacha on Nov. 18, a day after taking power, banned political parties and dissolved elected institutions, scuttling a seven-year-old democratisation programme.



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Prost cool on McLaren offer

PARIS — Ron Dennis' hopes of signing Alain Prost for McLaren-Peugeot next season took a nose-dive here Saturday night. Dennis re-vealed in England Thursday that he wants to persuade France's for Paris and Champion not to retire after all. But Prost, who was in Paris for a karting extravaganza that also includes his archival Ayrton Senna, said: "Right now, it is out of the question for me to go back on my decision to no longer drive in Formula One. At the moment, all I'm thinking about is the holidays. Ron Dennis can always

try his luck, but for the time being it's out of the question." Dennis had said: "I would like to employ Alain next year. I'm in constant contact with all drivers, retired or unretired. who might be of benefit to McLaren. We're a family team and drivers like Alain like that environment and miss it." Senna has replaced Prost at Williams Renault for 1994. The photograph shows Senna (left) and Prost together during the karting tournament (AFP photo).

Saint Anton.

Switzerland a double triumph

in Sunday's World Cup skiing.

took the women's slalom at

overtook the in-form Christian

Mayer who, after winning the previous giant slalom at Val D'Isere, was fastest in the first

descent on the challenging Ita-

37.54sec. Tomba, celebrating

second place in 2:38.55.

Locher won in 2min

Locher earned his first win

giant slalom as Schneider

The 26-year-old Locher

Schneider turns heat on Wachter held off the resurgent birthday boy Alberto Tomba and gave

SAINT ANTON, Austria (AFP) — Switzerland's Vreni Schneider turned the heat on Austrian rival Anita Wachter here Sunday as she won the Alpine World Cup slalom

But Wachter showed her fighting spirit by refusing to give up after a huge blunder wrecked her race chances --- a decision which kept her just ahead in the overall rankings. Schneider won in 1min 47.84secs, beating Pernilla Wiberg (1:48.58) and Kristina Anderson (1:48.71) and staking her claim as a Lillehammer Winter Olympic favourite.

The combined weekend crown went to Austrian teenager Renate Goetschl, fourth in the slalom and second in the downhill, but it was Wachter's performance which provided the focal point of Sunday's

Fourth fastest after the first run, the 26-year-old set a scorching early pace before rattling a gate and almost grinding to a

Wachter seemed to be skiing out but got going again after realising there were still World Cup points on offer, eventually finishing 12th.

Schneider, fastest after the first leg, still had to show icecool nerves, however, after Wiberg and Anderson looked on course for a Swedish

Wiberg, the double Olympic and world giant slalom cham-pion, had claimed the fastest time by half a second and Anderson, who has never won a World Cup event, hugged her teammate in celebration

after going second.

But their hopes of a one-two finish were ended by Schneid-

er's supperb finale. It was the 29-year-old's second win of the season after

Wachter now faces a major psychological test after seeing her early season form drain

her Santa Caterina sialom

The World Cup overall title holder began campaign with two consecutive wins and two runner-up spots in the first four events. but has only added one second-place in the next five

Goetschl, who surprised everyone in Saturday's downhill, finished the first slalom run in tenth place before producing another fine, aggressive

Her only previous success was a slalom win in Lillehammer last year.

Wiberg came second in the combined, with Bibia Perez of Italy just beating Wachter to third place.
Italian Deborah Compagno-

ni, a double winner this season, missed out after taking a crashing fall-on her second

Schneider revealed after her win, the 46th of her career, that she had been suffering from 'flu at the start of the week and had skipped Saturday's downhill event because she had still been feeling un-

well.
"I hadn't expected to win after my flu but sometimes things go well when you least expect it," she said.

Locker wins in Italy

Meanwhile in Alta Badia, Italy, Steve Locher's stunning second run in the giant slalom

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The bidding:
North East
Pass 1
Pass 3 N
Pass Pass
lead: Kin-South West
1 Pass
3 NT Pass

Opening lead: King of 2
Timing a hand is a nebulous concept, hence one of the most difficult aspects of the game to teach. On this

Cinema

North had made a value raise with three-card support. With a low doubleton and four hearts, North's

preference for four hearts was clear. Suppose declarer were to win the king of spades with the ace and play the ace and another heart immedi-ately. East can cash a third heart, leaving dummy with only one trump, and in the end declarer will wave to concede two spades and end up losing two tricks in each major suit. Winning the ace of spades and returning a spade runs the risk of the defenders playing a third round of spades and overruffing the fourth spade. have to concede two spades and end

king of spades to hold the first trick. West can do no better than continue spades. Declarer takes the ace and leads a low heart. East wins and, say, returns a diamond. Declarer wins on the table and leads a trump to the ace. When both defender

follow, the contract is cold. overruffs, while making sure chim-my retains enough trumps to take care of losers in the closed hand.

South's jump to three was to be pursue spede ruffs on the table. Af-ter one is in the bank, the king of clubs is an entry to the closed hand for another spade ruff. The definition South's jump to three no trump ers can acore their high trump showed a belanced hand with game-whenever it pleases them, but that is going values, but only four hearts, to the third and last trick for the protect against the possibility that defense.

Life not easy for German on U.S. tour

PALO ALTO, Calif. (R) -There was no hot water left in the showers when the German team returned to the dressing rooms after their 3-0 victory over the United States in a friendly Saturday.

The situation summed up their two-match tour of the

U.S. perfectly.

The games against Argenti-na and the U.S. in the last four days have not been a warm and soothing experience for the world champions as they intensify their build-up to next year's World Cup here. They suffered their first de-

feat for a year in a 2-1 loss to Argentina in Miami last Wednesday and struggled to break down a very defensive American team in the early

stages Saturday.

Berti Vogts's team, who have missed out on competitive World Cup qualifying matches because as champions they go through automatically to the finals, have learned that nobody is going to be easy to overcome when they defend

their title next year.

Wednesday's final game of their December trio of pre-World Cup matches is against Mexico in front of more than 100,000 fanatical fans in Mexico and will provide the world champions with one of their toughest tests for a long time. They will do well to win.

Even with talented midfielder Andy Moeller in some of the best form of his life, the world champions struggled to find a way past the American's offside trap and defensive tactics for long periods Saturday.

his 27th birthday, moved from fifth on the first run to take Germany's first two goals came from set pieces.

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Faisali stays on top with impressive win against Wihdat

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Al Faisali this week held on to their threepoint lead atop the first division soccer championship as the first leg of the Kingdom's most prestigious soccer competition reared the end with Al Ramtha having four postponed

Al Ramtha play the first of these matches when they take on titleholders Al Faisali in a most-important clash Tuesday. They will then face Al Jazireh on the 24th, Al Baqaa on the 28th and Al Yarmouk on the 31st. Al Yarmouk will face Al Fuheis in another postponed match on the 27th.

If they win at least three of their four matches, Al Ramtha will move to the top-three positions and be in a good spot to chase the title they last won in 1982. They were runners-up in 87,88 and 89.

During the past week Al Hussein held on to third place with a big 6-1 win over Al Arabi who remained in fifth position.

However, the week's most notable score was Al Faisali's 1-0 win over Al Widhat.

The match which was played in Irbid did not draw the usual large number of fans probably because of live television

coverage. The most-awaited clash of the two most popular teams in the country did not rise up to expectations as both former champions played a careful, slow match during the first

Al Faisali's Jiryes Tadros' two scoring chances were aborted by Al Wihdat's acrobatic goalie Naser Ghandour, while Al Wihdat, who missed the efforts of Ibrahim Sa'diyeh and Jamal Mahmoud,

metallic, dark-gray.

did not pose any real threat to scored for his team, and later Al Faisali's goal. scored for his team, and later assisted Naser Nobani to score

Tadros scored the only goal of the match when he received a pass from Subhi Suleiman in

the 61st minute.

Ghandour saved his team from at least three definite chances by Tadros and Mousa Awad and the clash ended with a precious win for Al Faisali. In another match Al Ahli upset Al Ramtha with a 1-0 win that kept Al Abli secure in

second place for now. Khalil Fataftah scored his team's winning goal in the 66th minute. while teammates Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib and Nart Yadaj lost three scoring chances that would have humiliated their opponents

Newcomers Al Baqaa advanced to 10th place after an important 1-0 win over Al Yarmouk in a match which was characterised as the dullest

who seemed content with a 1-0

clash of the week. Mohammad Wahid gave Al Bagaa's fans something to really cheer for when he netted in the goal in the 80th minute. Meanwhile Al Qadissieh finally scored their second win

when they beat Al Fuheis 2-1 to advance to 8th place. Not only did Al Qadissieh attend the match with a minimum number of players, having only one substitute on the bench, but striker Munir Han-

tash had to play with a painful injury throughout the first half. Nevertheless, Hantash was instrumental in assisting his teammates score two goals early in the match.

Mustafa Adam received passes from Hantash to score both goals in the 25th and 35th minutes. Al Qadissieh then retreated to defensive positions while Al Fuheis went on the offensive. Waed Sweis nearly

in the 83rd minute. Al Fuheis thus fell back to 9th place. In another match, Al Jazirch remained in 7th place after a 1-1 draw with Sahab.

Sahab seemed to have the advantage early on as Mohammad Al Ashhab and Ahmad Abdul Qader did not give Al Jazireh an easy time until

Abdul Qader succeeded in scoring from a header after acorner kick in the 38th minute.

Al Jazireh altered their defensive style and played a faster game towards the end of the match. After losing two. chances the finally managed to score the equaliser in the 76th minute and thus stripped Sahab of the chance to win and advance their standing.

Standings after

11th week

Team	P	W	GD	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	10	8	Į	1	_	23	4	27
Ahli	11	6	_	3	2	18	9	24
Hussein	11	5	2	3	1	17	6	23
Wihdat	11	4	2	2	3	9	8	18
Arabi	11	3	_	3	5	14	22	15
Ramtha	7	4	_	ī	2	10	5	14
Jazireh	10	ż	_	4	4	13	14	14
Qadissieh	11	ž	2	3	4	9	12	14
Fuheis	10	3	ī	ĭ	Ś	Ŕ	14	<u>12</u>
Bagaz	10	3	i	i	5	7	14	12
Yarmouk	9	3	_	•	6	'	17	9
Sahab	11	1	1	2	7	ģ	19	
Sanati	11	1	1	4	,	y	13	8

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The Theatre will be crosed from 25/12/93 till Monday 3/1/1994

German Defence Ministry."
"A British official came to

my office recently and we told

him the whole story. He went

through all my papers and took many notes. Possibly the in-

quiry blaming Libya will

Mr. Bollier, the BBC re-

ported, had since recalled tak-

ing two of the timers to the

East German army in 1985.

In a transcript of a radio show to be broadcast on Tues-

day night to mark the fifth

anniversary of the bombing,

the BBC quotes Mr. Bollier as

saying he took the timers to East Berlin.

Lockerbie investigators are

The media reports draw a

aware of this, the BBC said.

link between the Stasi and the

Syrian-based Palestinian

group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

General Command, led by

A Syrian link has often been

reported in the British media.

Such claims form part of the basis of a proposed film on the Lockerbie bombing which re-peats the claim that it was

financed by Iran through Sy-

rian intermediaries in retalia-

tion for the shooting down of

an Iranian airliner by a U.S.

The Sunday Times said the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States had

traced a transfer of \$12 million

paid by the Iranian govern-ment into Mr. Jibril's Vienna

The newspaper said Western

intelligence reckoned Mr. Jib-

ril's group had been commis-

sioned by Iran. It did not spe-

cify which Western intelli-

bank account.

Ahmad Jibril.

change," Mr. Bollier said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rockfall killed 42 in Egypt

CAIRO (R) - The bodies of a mother and six of her children, pulled from the rubble of Cairo houses crushed when a 3,000-tonne boulder broke off an escarpment, lifted the final death toll to 42, Al Ahram newspaper said Sunday. The boulder fell from the Moqattam hills on the edge of Cairo on Tuesday, crushing nine houses. Nine people were also injured, and rescue operations ended on Saturday. Al Ahram newspaper said the attorney-general's office had commissioned a scientific committee to study the reasons for the rockfall.

Relief situation in Sudan improves

KHARTOUM (R) — The U.N. has noted improvement in deliveries of relief aid to victims of famine and civil war in southern Sudan, the official Sudanese news agency said on Sunday. The United Nations acknowledged the change during meetings from Dec. 9 to 14 in between a U.N. team led by Vierri Traler, U.N. special envoy for humanitarian affairs in Sudan, and a government team headed by Dr. Ibrahim Abu Out, a minister of state for social planning. "The two sides noted that there has been significant increase in the volume of deliveries and the number of locations relief aid has been able to go to by rail and river routes," the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said.

Iran cracks down on video distributors

NICOSIA (AP) - Iran has tightened its controls on video and audio tapes by requiring licences for their distribution, Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The new restrictions passed by Iran's parliaemnt were the latest moves to restrict access to Western movies and music, regarded as a corrupting influence. Any-body caught renting or selling tapes without a licence would face having their business shut down and a fine of 10 million rials (\$5,700), the radio said. "Law enforcement bodies have been instructed to shut down places suspected of not complying with today's ruling and to arrest offenders," the radio said. Until recently, taped movies were illegal in Iran. That restriction was relaxed. But the latest moves were a step back towards greater regulation of the thriving video business in an attempt to make sure that the movies are acceptable to Iran's theocratic government.

Tunisia's trade union supports Ben Ali

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's only trades union has thrown its weight behind President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali ahead of presidential elections next March and sacked three of its leaders known to be independents. The 350,000-strong General Union of Tunisian Workers, one of the oldest unions in Africa and the Arab World, also renewed the mandate of its Secretary-General Ismail Sahbani for a new five-year term at the end of its three-day congress Saturday. The majority of the 515 delegates adopted Mr. Sahbani's moderate line by passing a resolution to "present" Mr. Ben Ali's candidacy for the March 20 presidential elections, and by backing Mr. Sahbani's list of 13 candidates for the executive office.

26 bodies dug out of Kuala Lumpur ruins

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Rescue workers, wearing masks and machinery, dug out 26 bodies Sunday froim the ruins of a Malaysian condominium that collapsed and entombed 54 people. The find lifted the death toll in Malaysia's worst building disaster to 29 as rescuers gave up hope of finding any survivors in the rubble. Malaysia's acting police chief Rahim Mohammad Noor ordered excavators and other heavy equipment to be used for the first time Saturday, a week after the apartment block collapsed. Prior to this, rescue workers, including experts from France, Japan and Singapore, had been using shovels and hand tools to tunnel their way into

8 killed as fire destroys Lahore shops

LAHORE (AFP) — At least eight people were killed and more than 20 injured when fire destroyed an entire shopping complex in the Punjab capital, officials said here Sunday. Rescue teams were digging into the rubble to search for people feared trapped under collapsed buildings, police said. An official told AFP that the fire started in a kite shop in southern Lahore's Baghbanpura district, where kites were being prepared for the coming spring festival. It spread to a fireworks shop which exploded, engulfing most other shops in the complex, he said. Residents said the explosion could be heard several kilometres away. Police said at least 100 shops and houses were damaged, 18 of them "totally gutted" in the blaze which burned from late Saturday until dawn Sunday. Eight bodies recovered from the debris included a woman and her

Indian parliament approves rights body

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The Indian parliament on Saturday gave its approval to the country's first national human rights commission, with powers to probe rights violations by the security forces. The lower house passed a bill to set up the ion here and similar bodies in various states "to meet the growing concern in the country and abroad about human rights violations." Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan said the human rights commission was necessary to "to foil the designs of some countries to malign India at the United Nations and other international fora." The eight-member body, to be headed by a retired chief justice of India, will have powers to investigate petitions by any individual or group of persons whose rights are violated.

Bangladesh executives held over drug ban

DHAKA (R) — Four Bangladeshi pharmacentical executives have been arrested and jailed for manufacturing a medicinal syrup which was banned after adulterated forms of the drug killed hundreds of children, police said Sunday. The executives of BCI Pharma Bangladesh, Rex Pharma Bangladesh and Ad-Flame Pharmaceuticals were detained on Saturday and charged with producing paracetamol syrup in violation of a government ban, they said. They were being held under the 1974 special powers act, which enables police to detain suspects without trial for up to three months. Bangladesh banned the sale and use of the anti-fever syrup last year after a study found that adulterated forms containing diethylene glycol killed hundreds of children through kidney failure.

Djibouti students riot over scholarship

DJIBOUTI (R) - Police arrested 26 young people in Djibouti when students at two secondary schools rioted after hearing rumours that scholarship grants would not be paid, the headteacher of one of the schools said. The students, ignoring assurances that the money would be paid this week, went on the rampage on Saturday and damaged more than 30 cars, broke windows and smashed school equipment, he said. In southern Djibouti, the opposition staged a political rally as members of the Afar tribe staged a day of mourning in memory of people killed two years ago in clashes between civilians and government security forces. The rally passed off peacefully.

Peace forum opens in Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — A reconciliation conference organised by Ethiopian opposition groups opened here on Saturday with a call for the release of seven opposition leaders arr. .ed when they returned from exile to attend the talks. The transitional government of President Meles Zenawi did not attend the conference and has dismissed it as a "propaganda exercise." In all, 51 Ethiopian political parties, including six exiled movements are taking part plus some 60 "wisemen" from all over the country, out of 205 participants invited to attend, 165 took their seats including 31 members of the diplomatic corps. The Oromo Liberation Front which broke ranks in June 1992 with the Zenawi government did not attend following the arrest on Wednesday of one of its leaders.



MOTHER'S CRY: A Palestinian woman shouts following a stone-throwing incident Sunday in at an Israeli soldier as she attempts to save her the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo) seven-year-old son released after he was detained

Regent stresses need to promote sports movement

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday emphasised the need to launch national efforts to promote sports at all levels in Jordan.

With physical activity, man helps up a sound mind and healthy body, and sports help communities to strengthen social communications and contacts in the most positive manner, the Regent said at the opening of a national conference dedicated to promoting the role of the sports movement in Jordan.

A few years ago, man was not giving due attention to sports because he used to have national exercise through working in the fields and through walking to and from work or horse-riding for transport, the Regent noted.

"Now that man has moved to a settled life, he has started realising the importance of sports for health, and hence sports and physical education found their way into schools, factories and production centres." he said.

Prince Hassan said the sports movement in Jordan

NEW YORK (Agencies) -

The Clinton administration

wants to impose tough new

requirements for lifting the

United Nations ban on Iraqi oil

exports, the New York Times

other U.N. Security Council

members to insist that Bagh-

dad recognise Kuwait as an

independent country and stop "persecuting" dissident Kurds

and Shi'ite Muslims, the news-

These would be conditions

added to those already in place

that Iraq disarm and let the United Nations monitor its

so far, Britain, France and

In an interview with the

newspaper, Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador

to the United Nations, laid out

the Clinton administration's

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N.

commission overseeing Iraq's

disarmament, must first certify Baghdad has abandoned its nuclear, chemical and biologic-

al arms programmes, then the

special commission must also show it is able to monitor the

She told the newspaper that

Russia are supporting the U.S.

position, the Times said.

The United States is orging

reported Sunday.

paper said.

military industries.

had been developed since the days of the emirate and the creation of schools noting that the creation of sports centres and colleges have been serving as very positive and effective factors in promoting the sports the country.

movement in the Kingdom. Nothing that Jordan has been participating in the sports events in the Arab World and abroad, the Regent said that of every citizen. the Kingdom was striving to

attain high results in international sports championships. Noting that sportsmen cost their nations a fortune, the Prince said that there was need for preparing Jordanian youth to attain major sports succes-

He said there was no alternative to supporting sports clubs and giving continued training.

There is a pressing need for financial resources to be invested in this scheme coupled with the creation of sports facilities to ensure continuous training for the youth, he said.

Colleges and educational institutions should give due attention various types of sports, the Regent said, noting that one third of the Jordanian

.S. hardening stand on Iraq

"I've said we want a proven

track record of six to 12 months' monitoring," Ms. Albright told the New York

But also, Iraqi leader Sad-

dam Hussein must give "clear

evidence of respect for

Kuwait's borders" and also

'show respect for his own peo-

ple" by ending his blockade of the Kurds and his attacks against dissident Shi'ite Mus-

lims, she told the newspaper.

Saturday by the Muslim fun-

Palestinian sources said

Hamas was again trying to mediate in Rafah on Sunday,

calling together local commun-

Dr. Abdul Shafi is a widely

respected figure in Gaza and

has arbitrated in previous re-

conciliation talks between

Masked men killed three

Palestinians, at least one a

suspected collaborator, over-

night on the occupied Gaza

Strip, Palestinian sources said.

A 24-year-old believed to

Fateh and Hamas.

ity leaders.

damentalist group Hamas.

Times.

population was youth. But he also stressed the need for factories and companies to give due attention to positive steps contributing to the success of the sports movement in

Special attention, he added. should be given to the hand-icaped and women and the elderly since sports is the right

The Jordan National Committee, which was formed two years ago, could now embark on new steps by implementing a comprehensive plan that caters to the needs of various sectors, the Regent said.

The Regent later chaired a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre for the Higher Council of the Federation of Martial Arts. He urged the council to promote martial arts by providing financial and moral incentives to the players.

The national tae-kwan-doo team will be participating in the Asian Championships to be held in the Philippines the last week of January. The Regent urged the council to exert all efforts toward ensuring the

have dropped from \$18 a bar-

rel to \$14.50 a barrel. This was

mainly because of weak de-

mand, but also because the

trying to strike a deal with the

Security Council that would

allow it to sell oil again, the

The tougher U.S. position

on lifting the embargo could

lead to a rise in the price of oil,

Israeli authorities was shot

dead in the head and stomach

on a Gaza City street. The

man's father was killed as a

collaborator by Hamas two

40s was found hanged, with his hands tied behind his back in a

An unidentified man in his

And a 28-year-old Palesti-

The hanged men had been

abducted by masked Palesti-

nians, the sources said, but no

nian was also strung up on a farm at Deir Al Balah after

market concluded ita

the newspaper said.

Times said.

years ago.

field in the town.

being tortured.

Palestinian clashes

(Continued from page 1)

PKK said to have moved from Lebanon to Iraq

BAHRAIN (AFP) - A Kurdish rebel group fighting for an independent state in southeastorn Turkey has moved its bases from Lebanon to northern Iraq, a senior Iraqi Kurdish leader was quoted as saying on Sunday.

LONDON (Agencies) — New

evidence has emerged of an

alleged Syrian link to the

bombing of an American air-

liner over Lockerbie in Scot-

land which killed 270 people

five years ago this week, Brit-

Britain and the United

States blame the bombing on

Libya, now under international

sanctions over its refusal to

hand over for trial two Libyans

But British Broadcasting

Corporation (BBC) radio said

electronic timers of the type used in the Dec. 21, 1988

bombing of Pan Am Flight 103

could have found their way to Syrian-based guerrillas

through the former East Ger-

A similar report in the Sun-

day Times newspaper said the

prosecution case against Libya

may now be on the verge of

Syria was initially suspected

of involvement in the bombing

but blame was swiftly transfer-

red to Libya based in large

measure on the sophisticated timers — produced by a small electronics firm in Zurich.

The BBC said the principal

of the firm, Edwin Boller, had originally told Lockerbie inves-

tigators he believed that pro-

totypes of the timers — a piece

of which was found among the

debris of Flight 103 - had

been supplied only to Libya.

batch he sent to the Libyan military in 1985," the Sunday

Times recalled.

At the time he "was certain

(the timer) was among a

However, Mr. Bollier told

the Sunday Times: "I remem-

ber giving samples to the elec-tronic office for the sale of

military equipment at the East

man Stasi secret service.

accused of the blast.

ish media reported Sunday.

Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), told the London-based Al Hayat newspaper about 1,000 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) had moved their bases from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valléy in eastern Lebanon to Zali, in northern Iraq, and had started training.

"We were against such a move from the start, but for reasons we cannot mention we have maintained silence," he said.

"This violates the agreement signed with the government of Kurdistan, stipulating that the PKK should not engage in any military activity or training inside our areas.

Mr. Barzani did not explain why the PKK had moved its fighters from Lebanon, but Syria has been under pressure from Turkey to expel the Kurdish rebels, who have been

fighting Ankara since 1984. My described the PKK rebels as "terrorists who pose the biggest threat to the future of the Kurdish nation," and threatened action against

"The PKK must not be pre-

sent in our areas. What it is doing inside Turkey is not our business. But we cannot accept the presence of this party inside our region and will use force, if necessary, to prevent its members from entering our areas," he said.

"We wonder why Iran supports this party and opposes the Kurdish administration. PKK elements consider themselves as an alternative to the Kurdish administration in northern Iraq and they inter-fere in everything. But we will stops such practices and we believe this is a sacred duty." Mr. Barzani said the Iraqi

Kurds wanted good relations with Iran on the basis of mutual respect, but added that they rejected any pressure.
"I do not understand what

Iran wants. In the summer the Iranian Kurdish rebels moved 40 to 100 kilometres inside Kurdish territory, but Iranian shelling continued and stopped only last week," he said.

Mr. Barzani also called for more world pressure on Baghdad, and warned that lifting the no-fly zone imposed by the West on northern Iraq would result in a disaster.

"We expect a disaster if that happens. Most Kurdish people will become refugees and be subject to a campaign of annihilation. The ware will move to the mountains and the situation will become tragic," he

Shalikashvili in Somalia over troop withdrawal

MOGADISHU (Agencies) -The United States' top military officer General John Shalikashvili arrived in Somalia Sunday to discuss the U.S. troop pullout and worries by a nervous U.N. alliance that the move could plunge the country

"The general will be here for two days. He will be meeting with the troops, visiting their bases and holding discussions with U.N. officials and commanders," Lieutenant Colonel Mike Gannon told reporters. U.S. troops began to pullout

last Thursday and in the past three days a total of 1,450, including 650 combat troops, have gone. Another 380 will leave on Monday, said Col. Gannon. Officials said Gen. Shalil-

kashvili, chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff. would discuss details on the final pullout of all 8,100 Americans whom President Bill Clinton has promised will be out by March 31,
U.N. military officials said

on Sunday their meeting with Gen. Shalikashvili would work out who will replace the Americans, and other details such as their logistical and equipment

Support.
These questions have to be any answered if there are to be any dreams of keeping the U.N. operations intact after the March withdrawal," one U.N.

military officer told Reuters. The U.N. has grown increasingly worried after announcements that beside the Americans, the former colonial power Italy and Germany would also pull their forces out

Italian Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri, who also arrived in Somalia Sunday, held talks with Gen. Shalikashvili which officials say centred on Rome's plan to withdraw from its former colony.

Officials say both the U.N. and the U.S. are trying to persuade Italy to stay and help keep the U.N. alliance

together.
"But our answer is why should we stay when the world's most powerful and richest country (the United States) is backing out. We are yet to find a good answer to that question," an Italian offi-cial, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

An Iranian newspaper said Sunday the defeat of U.S. policy in Somalia should be seen as a failure for an American-led new world order.

The (U.S.) defeat in Somalia should not be considered as the failure of the policies adopted by the former secretary of defence... (but) as yet another defeat for America's so-called new world order," the English-language Tehran Times said in an editorial

Clinton goes Christmas shopping, browsing

WASHINGTON (R) - Like

millions of Americans across the nation. President Bill Clinton did his part to help the U.S. economy by doing some Christmas shopping and a lot of browsing. A week before the holiday, Mr. Clinton went to a complex of stores at the Union station train depot on Capitol Hill with two old-Arkansas friends: Webb Hubbell, who is assistant U.S. attorney general, and Marsha Scott. director of presidential correspondence. Mr. Clinton's last shopping spree, a week ago in New York, created bediam and chaos. The scene Saturday was much calmer. His first stop was a store called Platypus. The president used a Visa Card to buy two artsy picture frames at 32 each, a follypop and some shortbread cookies. As hundreds of other shoppers crowded around for a look, held at bay by a phalanx of Secret Service agents. Mr. Clinton walked past a store that featured full-length cardboard cutouts of himself and his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton. He marvelled at a large miniature train set, recalling his own train set from boyhood days, then paid cash for \$2.96 worth of tea bags at the Made In America Store. Moving on to a hat store called the Proper Topper, Mr. Clinton whipped out the Visa Card again to buy a black velvet hat at \$34.98. He' browsed at a commemorative coin store called the United States Mint, then moved into a large hall with a number of jewelry stores. At a store called Aurea, Mr. Clinton purchased a necklace of African amber and lapis, red coral and silver from India. A clerk declined to give the price but Mr. Clinton got "a really good price," paying with an Amer-ican Express card.

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Prince. Edward ready to wed

LONDON (R) — Britain's

Prince Edward is in love with business consultant Sophic Rhys-Jones and is ready to marry her next year, the News Of The World newspaper reported Sunday. The tabloid said bachelor Prince Edward. Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, had enjoyed a secret romance with the 28-year-old strawberry blonde for three months. "Now the betting is. that Prince Edward, fifth in line to the throne, will choose March 30 - his 30th birthday - to announce their engage-. ment," said the report by author Andrew Morton. Mr. Morton said the couple had. become inseparable and spent. evenings alone at the prince's apartments in Buckingham Palace and weekends in his private quarters at Windsor Castle. The queen has invited Ms. Rhys-Jones to dine with her several times, added Mr. Morton. No one was available. at Buckingham Palace for comment. Mr. Morton wrote a biography of Princess Diana. Diana Her True Story which foretold her December 1992 separation from heir to the throne Prince Charles, Prince Edward's oldest brother, Mr. Morton said in the newspaper he had visited Ms. Rhys-Jones in her London office Friday to ask about her relationship with the prince and she had replied: "Prince Edward and I are good friends and we work together. He is a private person and so am I. I have nothing more to add." The report said the two met when Mr. Rhys-Jones, a consultant for a public rela-tions firm, had helped Prince Edward to organise a charity fund-raising event.

Lewis visits seriously ill Australian

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Legendary athletics King Carl Lewis arrived here Sunday from the United States after an impulsive decision to visit a seriously-ill Australian teenage athlete who idolises. him. Lewis touched down Sunday and left the airport into mediately to meet 17-year-old Craig Sheppard of Melbourne. The tecnager, a budding athlete, is suffering from a life-threatening heart disorder brought on by medication: taken to combat muscle cancer which he has suffered since a: baby. The illness has now itmited the sports-mad youngs ter from competing in athleses and his inspiration has been

group claimed responsibility for the killings. have cooperated with the Iraqi military industry. PLO wants reopening of banks delayed

(Continued from page 1)

authorised with licensing banks and monetary institutions etc. However, the CBJ, according to the draft agreement, would be authorised with organising the reopening of Jordanian bank branches during the interim period as well as monitoring and supervising the branches' operations in line with Jordanian regulations and instructions.

Palestinian officials argued that the PLO was not informed about the details of the Jordan-Israel banking agreement or its actual initialling which came as a surprise aithough Israeli-Jordanian banking negotiations had been going on several years. But Dr. Nabulsi said the Palestinian side was aware of the agreement and had no objec-

Another Jordanian official said Mr. Arafat gave his blessing to the reopening of Jordanian branches in the West Bank on the basis that it would help Palestinians as well as Jordanian banks. "Even before the Oslo self-rule

accord was announced, we re-quested that the Jordanians pro-vide us with a copy of the draft banking agreement they were negotiating with Israel in order to comment on it as part of the ongoing cooperation at the time, but we never received it," a Tunisbased PLO official said.

He said the PLO had requested from Jordan that it include an article which states that the banking accord would only be operative until Palestinian authority was

established in the occupied lands.
"We have definitely included this phrase in our banking agreement, and it is only natural to reconsider or cancel an agreement when another authority takes over the West Bank," a Jordanian offi-cial said. "Right now, we have reached agreement with the occupying power, but when the original authority of Palestinians in the West Bank takes over, a new agreement would have to be

negotiated."
Although several PLO officials justified Jordan's diminished coordination with the PLO by blaming Mr. Aratat for delaying the rati fication of the economic pact, other officials defended the PLO chief by saying it was premature for the PLO to commit itself to economic agreements when it was not assured of the extent of Israeli withdrawat from Gaza Strip and Jericho and who would control the border points.

"How can the PLO sign an economic agreement with Jordan on free trade and freedom of movement across the bridges if Palestinians don't control the border point between Jericho and Jordan," questioned a Palestinian

Mr. Arafat and Palestinians in general seek to keep their options open, hoping to achieve symbols of statehood before they sign econo-mic agreements with either Jordan, Egypt or Israel, officials said.
They said two weeks ago, in the

PLO-Israel economic talks in Paris, Israel agreed that the Pales-tine National Authority, which would act as government in the occupied territories during the in-terim period, would set up a central monetary institution, which would have all the powers of a central bank, excluding the right to issue Palestinian currency. A central bank without the right

to issue currency meant that the PNA would have to seek the CBJ's permission to carry out the CBJ's operations inside the occupied ternitories since the dinar is the legal tender there.

"We are quite aware of the fact that Israel is seeking to drive a wedge between Palestinians and Jordan, but unfortunately we are allowing it," one PLO official said.
"Either the three parties sit down
and agree or else Israel will seek bilateral accords to its advantage.*
PLO officials said it was utilikely
Mr. Arafat would sign the econo-

mic accord in the near future. They said Mr. Arafat was currently preoccupied with other priorities such as securing the already delayed implementation of the PLO-Israel accord.